BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's Oil Ministry and French oil companies have struck deals that will be activated once U.N. sanctions against Baghdad have been eased or lifted, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported on Saturday, Quoting an interview with Iraq's Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad in Saturday's Al Qadissiya newspaper, INA said the negotiations which clinched the deals took place recently in Paris. It gave no further details. Mr. Jawad also said that major U.S. British, Brazilian, Canadian and Spanish oil companies had expressed "their deep willingness" to conclude agreements and cooperate with Iraq's oil industry once U.N. sanctions were lifted. INA reported. He said these approaches had been made at meetings in Baghdad and elsewhere, including Amman and Vienna, but did not elaborate on the talks, INA reported. Iraq is forbidden to sell its oil on international markets under U.N. sanctions clamped on the country after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Jawad said that Iraq's oil output was now 550,000 to 600,000 barrels per day, adding that Iraq was developing previously known but untapped oilfields in central and western areas of the country, INA stated.

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# Jordan made its points clear to Ross, Majali tells Cabinet

Anani reports on premier's briefing on Aqaba siege, peace talks and review of Amnesty assessment

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan strongly protested to the United States against the continued inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping in the Red Sea during a recent visit to Amman by U.S. Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross, Information Minister Jawad Anani said Saturday.

"Jordan told the U.S. admi-

mistration that the inspection of ships and the subsequent delay of the arrival of Jordan-bound goods were severely harming the Jordanian economy," Dr. Anami said in a statement following a regular Cabinet ses-

Dr. Anani said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali briefed the ministers on his meeting with Mr. Ross in Amman on Wednesday.

In the course of discussing Jordanian-U.S. relations the prime minister focused on the question of the Red Sea in-

reached on

checking

cargo of

one ship

at Agaba

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the first time

since the imposition of interna-

tional sanctions against Iraq, a

cargo ship carrying freight for

fordan coming through the Red Sea will be inspected on

shore instead of high seas in

what could turn out to be a

precedent-setting event, in-

formed sources said Saturday.

man, a 13,000-tonne German

vessel carrying 3,000 tonnes of general cargo for Jordan, was

expected to dock at Aqaba on Monday and a "civilian offic-

er" from the diplomatic mis-

sion of one of the members of

the anti-Iraq coalition would

inspect the cargo at the port.

from proceeding towards

Agaba on March 18 by the U.S.-led enforcers of the inter-

mational sanctions against Iraq.

After four inspections, the in-

spectors ruled on Wednesday that the ship could not be

allowed to proceed to Aqaba

since they did not have "acces-

sibility" to inspect some of the

Cargo.
The vessel proceeded to a

Gulf port to unload cargo des-

tined there before returning to

the Red Sea for a new inspec-

tion with better cargo accessi-

"It was half way to a Gulf

port from the Red Sea when an

agreement was reached after Jordanian government in-

tervention that the vessel could

be inspected at Aqaba port

rather than the Tiran Straits,"

where the inspections usually

take place, said one source.

"Subsequently, it was recalled

to Aqaba. The vessel is ex-

The Skyman is carrying

pected at Aqaba on Monday."

general cargo, including steel

rods and animal feed, for the

Jordanian market, according

The inspection of the Sky-

man will be the first on-land

inspection of cargo coming

through Aqaba after the im-

to the ship's agents.

bility, the sources said.

The Skyman was prevented

The sources said the Sky-

Accord

spections by the U.S.-led enforcers of the sanctions on Iraq and noted that an increasing number of ships was turned back for unjustified reasons.

Dr. Anani said. The minister said since the inspections started in August 1991, a total of 1,700 ships were intercepted but the inspectors could not find a single violation of the sanctions.

The inspection "is totally unacceptable to Jordan," Dr. Anani quoted Dr. Majali as telling Mr. Ross. "If the inspections have to continue then they should take place at Aqaba port and conducted by a neutral non-military party, the prime minister said, according to Dr. Anani.

Dr. Anani noted that Jordan had submitted a proposal for land-based inspections to the United States. He said the U.S. administration had promised to consider this matter

seriously at the time and Jordan was hoping that a solution would be found very soon.

Dr. Anani said the question of the Middle East peace negotiations was discussed with Mr. Ross. Jordan demanded that concrete progress be achieved in the peace talks, he said. Jordan pointed out that the talks had so far achieved nothing because Israel refuses to enter into substantial issues and refuses to implement the agreements achieved thus far,

he said. "Jordan warned that unless substantial progress is achieved soon the whole peace process would come under suspicion," Dr. Anani said.

On prospects for the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington next month, Dr. Anani said Jordan had already announced that the Kingdom would give its approval through a collective decision by the Arab countries involved in the peace process and the subject could also come up in the Arab foreign ministers meeting which started in Cairo Saturday.

Dr. Anani said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher could be visiting the region soon to discuss the resumption of the talks in Washington and arrangements that would ensure positive developments in the negotia-

Mr. Ross, in his discussions with Dr. Majali, expressed optimism that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would soon reach an agreement over security arrangements in Hebron and measures for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho first agreement, said Dr. Anani. He said Israel had given its

(Continued on page 5)

# Family of 9 killed, hundreds stranded in floods in Ramtha

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Nine people were killed, hundreds were stranded and farmlands were extensively damaged in floods that hit tha area on the border with Syria, civil defence officials said Saturday.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) identified the dead as school teacher Awad Saleh Mayas, 36, his wife Badriveh and their seven children five boys and two girls between two months and 11 years. They drowned as their car was over swept by a torrent at Bweidah district on the eastern parts of Ramtha Friday evening, the CDD said.

By Suhair Obeidat

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A charge that

The family was returning home from a trip outside the town when streams of one to two metres hit their car and no one could save them, said a CDD official in Amman.

The official told the Jordan

Times that the streams hit the eastern parts of Ramtha, isolating many people in their homes in remote regions. The CDD rescued 300 people, the official said.

A department spokesman said that at least two hours of rain fell in the Bweidah district, causing floods in some

The CDD official said many homes along the streams were cracked or flooded. The CDD was helped by army helicop-ters, which helped in rescue efforts, he said.

The CDD official said that the incident was perhaps the first of its kind in the town's

rade, and the eastern regions of the country could still re-Experts debate 'responsibility'

#### says Japan The Department of The Department of Meteorology said that the sud-Meteorology said unstable not safe . den burst of rainfall covered weather conditions continued Saturday but were expected to most of the northern areas of end Sunday. Temperatures TOKYO (R) - North Jordan Friday afternoon and would rise to 21 degrees centig-

Korea said on Saturday Japan would never be safe if war broke out on the Korean

Tension is running high in the region over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme and diplomatic efforts are underway to try to defuse the crisis. "If the situation on the Korean Peninsula goes worse and

a war breaks out, Japan will never be safe, either," the North Korean workers' party daily Rodong Sinmun said. The statement was carried by the official Korean Central

News Agency monitored in The daily accused Japanese Prime Minister Moribiro Hosokawa and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata of taking hardline stance against Pyon-

gyang, which is suspected of developing nuclear weapons. "The reckless military action of the Japanese reactionaries against the Korean people will result in digging their own grave," the daily said.

In August, North Korea acknowledged the development of the long-range Rodong-1 missile, following reports in Japan, South Korea and the United States that it had testfired four of them in the Sea of Japan.

Japanese officials said they could not say whether the testfirings were successful.

The Rodong-1 — an upgraded version of Scud missiles used in the Gulf-war - has a range of about 1,000 kilometres and could hit targets in less than 10 minutes after firing, the Japanese defence officials said.

The military journal Jane's Sentinel said earlier this month that North Korea was developing two new ballistic missiles. one with a range of up to 3,500 kilometres, sufficient to attack

Guam Island in the Pacific. Quoting U.S. intelligence sources, the military journal said the missiles, given the code names Taepo Dong-1 (TD-1) and TD-2, are twostage missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometres and 3,500 kilometres respectively.

Shortly after Jabaliya's Guam has a major U.S. (Continued on page 5)

## Arab League opens meeting, freezes changes to charter CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab

League foreign ministers met Saturday to smooth over regional disputes but could not even agree to vote on a proposal to make the league's decisions binding on its members. Ministers from 18 countries

and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and lower-ranking representatives of the league's other three members gathered to discuss an agenda that included the possible partial lifting of the economic boycott of Israel, Libya's problems with the West, amendment of the Arab League Charter and the establishment of an Arab court of

Opening speakers lamented rifts among the Arabs, saying face of the challenges of the post-cold war world. But in their first working

session, held immediately after the opening, the ministers failed to vote either on changing the charter to make decisions easier to come by and binding on members or on establishing an Arab court.

Emerging from the session, Foreign Minister Amr Musa of Egypt told journalists votes on both issues were postponed to the next ministerial meeting "because the time wasn't right" to discuss them.

Both initiatives were revived in 1990, after Iraq invaded Kuwait. Ministers hoped that changing the charter to make Arab League decisions binding and to establish an Arab court

more effective in resolving regional problems. But splits among the Arabs

that erupted during that crisis have not allowed passage of either proposition. In sessions Saturday night, league ministers were to discuss a request by the United

States for the Arabs to stop

boycotting companies that do business with Israel. Arab diplomats said they expected the boycott, imposed in 1952, to continue unchanged particularly in view of the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre of dozens of Palestinian worship-

On arrival in Cairo Friday night, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said he was

#### Jordan firm on assigning responsibility for U.N. vote

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan insisted Saturday that the inclusion of Jerusalem in a March 18 Security Council resolution was ounterproductive despite Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) criticism of the Jordanian position as "confusing" and "puzzling.

Responding to a statement by the PLO's observer mission at the United Nations, Minister of Information Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times that while the Kingdom agrees with the PLO that there is no conceivable peace without Jerusalem, there is a "difference in opinion over entering it (Jeru-

salem)" within the resolution. The PLO's U.N. observer mission on Friday criticised "confusing comments on the issue of Jerusalem" by a number of Jordanian officials in connection with the recent Security Council resolution.

In a statement carried from the U.N. headquarters in New York, the PLO said it had so far avoided responding to 'puzzling statements."

But it said it was doing so now because Jordan's U.N. envoy, Adnan Abu Odeh, had been quoted in the Londonbased Arabic daily Al Hayat as suggesting the issue of Jeru-salem might have been better served if a reference to it had been removed from the resolution condemning the massacre of dozens of Palestinian worshippers by an Israeli settler in

#### they crippled the Arabs in the Israel-PLO contacts continue, Pyongyang police could deploy in 2 weeks

TUNIS (Agencies) -- Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli officials, discussing details by telephone, hope to reach agreement by Tuesday on security for Palestinians in Hebron, PLO

officials said on Saturday. Agreement on Hebron would be expected to clear the way for resumption of their far-behind-schedule negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and a West Bank enclave around

Jericho. Israel Radio said Palestinian police will be deployed in the occupied territories within two weeks as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke of progress in meeting the PLO's security

demands following last month's Hebron massacre. Israel and the PLO agreed on the deployment in nine days' time of several dozen Palestinian policemen in the Gaza Strip and West Bank

towns of Jericho and Hebron, the radio said. Their initial task would be to

familiarise themselves with the

terrain, and in Hebron, to guard public buildings and the university.

Uri Savir, Israeli foreign ministry director general, told the radio the Palestinian police in Hebron could carry pistols. However, unlike those to be deployed in Gaza and Jericho, "they will remain under Israeli authority."

Mr. Savir said the PLO "agreed that in the event of conflict ... Israel will have the last word."

Dozens of lightly-armed Norwegian observers will also be deployed in Hebron, where a Jewish settler shot dead dozens of Palestinian worshippers in a mosque on Feb. 25. The two sides are to decide

on the exact numbers of police and observers when they resume talks in Cairo on Tuesday, according to the radio. Mr. Rabin told Israeli army

radio an accord was in sight on security for Hebron Palestinians, as demanded by the PLO as a condition for resuming the negotiations on launching autonomy in Gaza and

"I believe we have advanced in the right direction these last days in Cairo and that the negotiations will resume Tuesday in Egypt," he said, after having been briefed on talks with the PLO that ended Thursday.

"I hope we will manage to overcome the first difficulty, that is to find the arrangements in Hebron to boost the security of the Palestinian population" so as to allow the autonomy talks to resume, he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said implementation of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord signed last September could start "in one or two months.' Mr. Peres said: "We agreed

(with the PLO) to resume autonomy negotiations at an accelerated pace in Cairo Tuesday."
In Washington, a State De-

partment official said Friday that the U.S. administration expected the deployment of

(Continued on page 5)

# Dozens injured in Israeli gunfire

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) - Israeli troops and Jewish settlers fired on hundreds of stone-throwing Palestinians in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, wounding at least 30 of them. witnesses and hospital sources

The clashes in Hebron, Nablus and Tulkarem followed the partial lifting by the Israeli army of a curfew imposed on Hebron after the Feb. 25 mosque massacre there by a Jewish settler, witnesses said.

The soldiers and settlers, witnesses in Hebron added, opened fire in separate incidents. The army said it was checking the reports.

The incidents, during which the army used tear-gas to disperse protesters, followed a week in which Israeli troops killed four Palestinians and wounded dozens in Hebron. Three of the dead were leading members of the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement, killed during an apartment block

clashes, in an unusual show of

force, Israeli troops disarmed and detained several Jewish settlers after a confrontation over prayer rights at the Ibrahimi Mosque. Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin, meanwhile, said he would not move settlers out of Hebron "at this stage," but did not rule out an evacuation at a later time. A group of settlers tried to

enter mosque, which they call the Tomb of the Patriarchs, holy to Jews and Muslims, after hours set aside for Jews under security orders issued after the massacre, an army spokesman said. After skirmishes, the sol-

diers confiscated weapons from some settlers to avoid "a new confrontation with soldiers and Muslim worshippers who were trying to pray" in the mosque, the spokesman said.

Soldiers also checked the identities of some of the settiers, but made no arrests.

In several neighbourhoods in tense Hebron, soldiers clashed with month-long curfew imposed to contain postmassacre protests.

Scores of youths pelted troops from behind barricades made from scrap- metal and burning tyres.

Soldiers also fired tear-gas to disperse several hundred Palestinians gathered at the ruins of an apartment house levelled in an army raid in which the three men were kilied this week.

Despite the lifting of the curfew, most of Hebron remained shuttered in mourning for the slain Hamas men. Masked Hamas activists, carrying Palestinian flags, marched to a wake, chanting: "Who, martyrs, your blood shall not be wasted."

In clashes elsewhere in the occupied territories, some 30 Palestinians were hurt Saturday, including eight wounded by live ammunition in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Jabaliya.

The PLO has demanded that Israel move the more than 400 settlers out of Hebron to reduce friction. Mr. Rabin said Saturday they would stay put for now, but hinted he might act against the six Jewish enclaves in Hebron at later time.

position of the sanctions against Iraq in August 1990. It was not immediately clear whether the agreement for land-based inspection of the Skyman was a one-time procethere or the forerunner of a mechanism proposed by Jor-

Jordan, whose maritime opcrations are severely hampered as a result of what many

(Continued on page 5)

radical Arab regimes were responsible for the dismal state States choose Israel as its first of affairs of the Arab World sparked a heated debate among political scientists and historians with expertise in strategic studies at a regional

conference which opened here One of the key speakers. Waheed Abdul Majeed, said Arab states, to date, still suffer cratic and human rights princithe repercussions of their faulted options, mainly totalitarian and undemocratic reg-

imes and dependence on the defunct Soviet Union. Speaking at a session titled "Arabs in the American States today search for new

for dismal state of Arab affairs Strategy" Dr. Abdul Majeed. of Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, said revolutionary totalitarian Arab regimes made the United

ally in the region.

He argued that in addition to the fundamental role that Israel played in achieving U.S. strategic aims in the region (confronting communism and the expansion of the former Soviet Union), the U.S. and Israel "share the same demo-

He added that following the end of the cold war and in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Israel and the Jewish lobby in the United

Israel's role within the context of U.S. interests, mainly Islamic fundamentalism, considered the major threat to the West and its interests. Dr. Abdul Majeed said the aforementioned elements

enemies in the region to retain

make it difficult for the U.S. to revise its relationship with Israel, even after major developments in the Middle East region such as the peace process, which is undermining its credibility.

"As Arabs, we could not attempt to influence the American policy in this field because we could not go ahead with democracy, and we could not

(Continued on page 5)

# Bouez: Peace talks are sterile

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said on Saturday Arab talks with Israel were sterile and would make no headway before a self-rule deal between Al Assad. the Jewish state and the Palestinians went into effect. "Until now, the negotiations

have been sterile and going nowhere," Mr. Bouez, in Cairo to attend a regular Arab League meeting, told Reuters in an interview. One of the main reasons for

CAIRO (R) - Lebanese

lack of progress, he said, was that Israel was not ready to make any headway on any of the other Arab tracks in the peace process until it sealed its peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), signed in Washington

last year. Mr. Bouez said the Jewish state had expressed reservations over negotiating on different fronts. "This is why the latest three months witnessed a stagnation in the talks." A second reason was that

Israel was intentionally slowing any progress, especially after the meeting in January between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez "The Israelis wanted to

show that the meeting of Geneva between Assad and Clinton was a failure. They wanted to foil the Geneva agreement because they are against any direct talks between any Arab leader and the United States," he said. "They intentionally

wanted.. to show that dialogue can only be with Israel," he Mr. Bouez said Israeli internal political problems were

blocking Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government from taking decisions essential to the negotiations on the Golan Heights and South Lebanon.
"For all these reasons, the latest round of negotiations

was virtually sterile," he Speaking of the Arab

League meeting, he said the ministers of Jordan, Syria and. Lebanon might consult to decide on a tentative date for their countries to meet to coordinate their policies ahead of any peace talks.

Mr. Bouez said that U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau, who went to Beirut on Friday, told him that Israel and the PLO could sign their deal on a limited Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho by April. He said U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher might tour the Middle East before the next round of peace "The Americans believe that in mid-April the Palestinians and Israelis can sign an agreement and that Christopher may come to the region (then) to

consolidate this agreement and

to make a tour that would

prepare for the resumption of

the next round of negotiations," Mr. Bouez said. (Continued on page 5)

# Pentagon says Somalia mission accomplished, but criticism lingers

WASHINGTON (AFP) -The Pentagon is withdrawing the last U.S. troops from Somalia with a sense of pride in a mission accomplished, but nagging criticism persists that the U.S. displayed a political lack of will during the opera-

"Before we arrived in December '92, hundreds of thousands of people had died as the result of starvation. said Major Joe Gradisher, the Pentagon spokesman in charge of African affairs.

Since then it has stopped. We saved thousands of lives and put Somalia on the road to recovery," he said.

But military analysts say the operation ran into trouble when it turned into a holding action by peacekeepers under

The first phase, Operation Restore Hope, was a success they contend because it met clearly defined military objectives: U.S. troops landed in Mogadishu and secured the airports and opened the roads

for relief convoys.
"We never used military force beyond the first phase of the operation," noted Don Snider, who served on the staffs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the national security in the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George

Mr. Snider, now politicomilitary studies director at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the lessons to be learned from the Somalia experience were political rather than strictly

When you start to use milit-

ary force to pursue a poorly defined objective, you have a recipe for disaster, he said.
The search for General
Mohammad Farah Aideed clearly illustrates the problem. The Americans let it be known that they knew where he was at virtually every moment.

The idea of capturing Gen. Aideed was achievable militarily, but was abandoned in favour of a policy that looked exclusively to restoring the peace, according to one milit-

ary source.
"It simply was a mistake politically to go after Aideed. We did not use at all the military capabilities we had to execute that kind of search," said Mr. Snider.

As for the ambush Oct. 3 in which 18 U.S. commandos and, by some estimates, several hundred Somalis were killed during a raid on an Aideed stronghold in Mogadishu, Mr. Snider said it amounted to another political disaster.

The high number of U.S. casualties prompted President Bill Clinton to order the gradual withdrawal of the troops.

Nevertheless some experts point out that the U.S. troops were outnumbered eight or nine to one in the ambush and argue that from a purely military point of view the U.S. action was a success.

As Washington prepared to honour the leaders of the op-eration, the Pentagon had drawn up its toll: Of a force of 24,000 Americans, "only" 30 were killed in combat, and. another 18 were killed and one missing in the crash of an AC-130 over Kenya March 14.

## **Ekeus close to notifying** U.N. of Iraqi compliance

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) overseeing the destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic weapons is close to notifying the Security Council that all of Iraq's weapons banneti under the Gulf war ceasefire agreement have been identified and destroyed, the head of the commission says.

Commission Chairman Rolf Ekèus told journalists after a private meeting with the council Wednesday that Iraq had provided "good information about the missing elements in the chemical weapons programme." He indicated that after UNSCOM verifies the information, the U.N. data on all Iraq's weapons programmes will be complete.

in the past week, Mr. Ekeus met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on the political aspects of the commission's work while commission members met with an Iraqi technical team to discuss details of the long-term verification plans and review what information UNSCOM still

Mr. Aziz was unsuccessful in getting UNSCOM to certify to the Security Council that Iraq by accepting Resolution 715 outlining the long-term monitoring - had fulfilled all its weapons obligations in the ceasefire agreement. Iraq wants the certification so the council's mandatory oil embar-

go will be lifted. UNSCOM has maintained that the long-term monitoring must be operational for about six months before any certification can be given to the council. The six-month criteria, Mr. Ekeus said, gives UNSCOM an opportunity to ascertain

that Iraq is complying with me long-term monitoring. The six-month period begins after the first "baseline inspec-tion" in each category at both military installations and industries that could have dual use military and industrial capabilities, Mr. Ekeus explained. Iraq has said it was willing to work with the U.N. inspectors "tagging missiles, inspecting chemical facilities, putting in sensors" to get the

monitoring operational. "When we have been able to carry out the first six months inspection we will have a relatively good picture of Iraq's compliance," Mr. Ekeus said, but then it will be a "political judgment" for the council to decide whether to lift the oil

embargo. The United States has said that it will look at Iraq's com-pliance with all the U.N. Gulf war resolutions as an indicator of intent and will take that into account in the decision to lift the oil sanctions.

"It has long been our position that in examining whether to lift sanctions it will require a leap of faith by the council... as to whether Iraq will continue to comply after it begins selling oil," U.S. mission spokesman James Rubin said recently. "In making that judgment call, we need to take into account Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions because they are the best indications we

have of intent. Other council members especially Russia, France and China — are more willing to lift the embargo once Mr. Ekeus says the monitoring is running smoothly. But most council members agree that Baghdad must recognise Kuwait before they can proceed on the sanctions.



jeep by Israeli soldiers who roughed him up inside before taking him away (AFP photo) TOUGH DEFIANCE: A Palestinian youth who tried to escape arrest outside the Old City walls of Jerusalem is dragged to the

### **British paper uncovers** arms scandal evidence

LONDON (Agencies) — Three men were jailed for illegal arms trading with Iran despite British government knowledge of their activities in a case that closely parallels the "arms-to-Iraq" scandal, a London newspaper reported on

The Independent said it had discovered that Britain's international spy agency. M16, encouraged one of the defendants to continue his involvement in the project, and that government knowledge of the arms trading with Iran was suppressed during the trial. The "arms-to-Iraq" scandal

centres on claims the government broke its own rules barring arms sales to Iraq and tried to stop the policy coming to light in a court case involving executives from the Matrix Churchill engineering firm.

The probe, set up by Prime Minister John Major when the trial collapsed in November 1992 and headed by Lord Justice Scott, has posed a serious threat to Mr. Major's fragile

In the fresh allegations, the Independent said four men stood trial in 1988 for attempting to defraud Iran by offering missiles for sale which they could not supply.

"Three of the defendants repeatedly protested their innocence and insisted that both the British and American authorities knew of the project." it said, adding the men were given jail sentences of between

two and six years. The fourth defendant, a businessman named John Taylor from Surrey, southern England, was acquitted, and has now provided fresh evidence of a lengthy relationship with M16.

But his involvement with the spying agency was not dis-closed to the jury during the trial, although it was discussed in the judge's chamber by the prosecution and the defence.

Before the trial, a lawyer working for the security services visited Mr. Taylor's lawyer, confirming the businessman had worked for M16 for more than a decade. the Independent said.

Taylor said his involvement in the deal to sell Iran 5,000 missiles began late in 1985, when he joined the three other men who were negotiating to sell the arms through intermediaries, the paper said. The intermediaries later claimed they were the victims of an

Lyell accepts partial blame British Attorney General Nicholas Lyell, under fire for suppressing vital documents in the 1992 trial over an arms-for-Iraq scandal, on Friday took partial blame for wrongly advising government prosecu-

"I am the minister of the crown," he said on the second day of testimony before a longrunning public inquiry into the The treasury solicitors' de-

partment is one of four departments that fall under my responsibility and I accept that." As he spoke, the opposition Labour Party tabled a scathing motion in the House of Commons demanding his resigna-

"We deplore his contemptuous treatment of the house and call for him to come to apologise to the house for his actions and then to resign forthwith," it said. Mr. Lyell, Britain's top law

officer, has been portrayed as a scapegoat in the government's bungling of the trial of three executives of the Matrix Churchill machine tool company.

The trial collapsed and the three were exonerated after a former defence official testified the government had been aiding and abetting the sale of embargoed weapons-making machinery to Iraq. He testified the government

had, in fact, used the company's employees to gather intelligence in Baghdad.

The mistrial dumped reams of classified documents into the public domain, laving bare a pattern of government complicity in illegal arms sales to traq by some 30 British companies, until just prior to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Lyell's fellow cabinet ministers have testified he told them to sign public interest immunity certificates (PIIS), which deprived the defence in the Matrix Churchill trial of vital documents.

He has thus been accused of being prepared to allow innocent men go to prison to avoid embarrassment to the govern-

The attorney general's role in the ensuing scandal was highlighted last month when Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine told the inquiry he had had severe doubts

about signing the PHS.

Mr. Heseltine said he signed them only after Mr. Lyell assured him his misgivings would be brought to the attention of the trial judge, but that this was never done.

## Ciller faces test in elections

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, battling an economic crisis and Kurdish rebels, meets her first electoral test when Turks vote in municipal polls Sunday. Opinion polls suggest Ms.

Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) and her junior coalition partner, the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), may muster barely a third of the vote between them.

Such a poor showing could wreck the coalition's credibility, already eroded by this year's economic trauma, and reinforce opposition party calls for early parliamentary elec-

A poll by Konda Research, published by Milliyet newspaper on Friday, showed that 59 per cent of voters wanted early elections.

It put the opposition Motherland Party led by Mesut Yilmaz in front with 23.6 per cent of the vote for provincial councils. The pro-Islamic Welfare Party (RP) was next with 21.7

on 15.3 per cent and the SHP on 13.7 per cent. Smaller parties or undecided voters accounted for the rest. Ms. Ciller, picked by her party in June to replace now-

per cent, trailed by the DYP

president Suleyman Demirel. has sworn to stay in power whatever the outcome. The municipal elections cannot change the parliamentary balance, but Turkish commen-

tators say Ms. Ciller's own party might dump her if the results show she has become a liability. The narrowness of Mother-

land's lead suggests that Mr. Yilmaz has failed to exploit public disenchantment with the coalition which replaced his government after the November 1991 general election.

"There is a widely-held conviction that though Motherland may manage to increase its votes to some extent, it will be the 'defeated party' in this election." wrote columnist Fehmi Koru.

Voting for local councils will give the clearest indication of relative party strengths, but the parties are also fighting for the prestige of winning the mayorships of big cities. In Istanbul, the most glitter-



ing prize, two opinion polls favoured singer and film-mak-er Zulfu Livaneli of the SHP One gave former Mayor Bed-rettin Dalan the edge for the DYP.

The Konda poll said SHP mayoral candidates would win in Ankara and Izmir, with their Motherland rivals in second

Turkey's economy, flirting with recession and hyperinflation, has given the coalition its biggest headache ahead of the

Fearing the wrath of voters, Ms. Ciller has delayed drastic action to tackle public deficits. curb inflation widely expected to hit triple figures this year and restore confidence in the

The U.S. agency Standard Poor's cut Turkey's credit rating this week, saying it feared the elections might not dissolve the political gridlock which has blocked resolute economic measures.

Ms. Ciller has sought to divert attention from the economy by pitting berself against Kurdish nationalists and Muslim radicals.

She organised a "respect for Ataturk" day earlier this month to underline Turkey's. commitment to the secular legacy of the republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and discredit the RP, one of whose MPs had cast slurs on Ataturk's mother.

More controversially, she encouraged parliament to strip the RP deputy and seven Kur-dish nationalist MPs of their immunity to enable them to be prosecuted by a state security

Six of the Kurdish MPs have been jailed awaiting trial on charges of backing the separat-ist cause of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas and could face the death penalty. "Every vote for the DYP is a

bullet shot at the PKK," Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first woman prime minister, tells election

## Amid stumbling peace talks, Camp David is 15

CAIRO (AP) — As Middle East peace talks stumile along, the first Arab Israeli treaty marks its 15th anniversary Saturday with Egypt and Israel still learning to live together.

Their armies no longer threaten each other, and the border is open 24 hours a day. Israelis visit on holiday, Egyptian oil flows to Israeli refineries, scientists travel back and forth to academic conferences. But there remains a coolness that Egyptians say will not go

away until Israel makes peace with the rest of the Arab World. That helps explain why Egypt works so hard at its role as go-between in the current talks with other Arabs. "We endorse the Camp

David treaty, and we abide by it," said Egyptian political analyst Mohammad Al Sayed. "But we are gravely concerned about the fate of the Palestinians and what happens throughout the Arab commun-

ity that we are part of."

It was Egyptian President
Anwar Sadat who launched the peace initiative in 1977 with a dramatic flight to Tel Aviv, the first official visit to the Jewish state by an Arab leader.

An accord was hammered out the next year at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland with much mothering from President Jimmy Carter. The treaty was signed March 26, 1979, on the White House lawn by Sadat and Prime Minsiter Menachem Be-

Thus Egypt became the first Arab state to accept the exist-

ence of the Jewish state since its founding in 1948. Israel, in turn, gave back the vast Sinai desert it seized in 1967 in the third of four wars between the

two countries. Both sides were rewarded by the West, and still rank as top recipients of U.S. foreign aid with \$3 billion a year to Israel and \$2.1 billion to Egypt. But Egypt paid dearly in

other ways. The largest country in the Arab World, with nearly 60 million people, was shunned for a decade by Arab hardliners for breaking ranks. Sadat paid with his life in 1981, the victim of extremists.

Extremism remains a threat. The Interior Ministry said earlier this month that Israel's ambassador, David Sultan, was among those on the death list of radicals.

Mr. Sultan, an Egyptian born Jew whose family emigrated to Israel in 1949, acknowledges that there was a split-personality element to the countries' relations.

"A strategic peace was established 15 years ago, and it was proved to be strong and viable," he said. "Even in the most difficult times, we maintained diplomatic relations.

On the other hand, he added: "A treaty is a piece of paper that you have to translate into a living reality. That naturally takes a lot of time."

Indeed, Egypt still issues statements critical of Israel even as it carries messages back and forth in Israel's peace talks with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

## Gamaa accuses police of summary executions

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's largest underground Islamic extremist organisation accused police Friday of continuing a policy of summarily executing suspected radicals.

In a statement faxed to a Western news agency, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) said the latest police killings were tit-for-tat repris-and for an Al Gamaa bombing and an attack on a policemen's

It said three of the victims were civilians dragged from their houses and shot, their bodies dumped with extremists to make it appear as if they had been shooting at police. Nobody was injured in the

bombing, near a Cairo Bank, but authorities said four policemen were killed in the attack on the policemen's club in southern Egypt. The extremists' message alleged that two officers and six enlisted policemen died.

Both attacks were to avenge the March 17 executions of two Al Gamaa members for trying to kill President Hosni Mubarak last November. Police said only four policemen were killed.

A day after that attack, police killed two members of Al Gamaa, according to the extremists' statement, as they worked in their field. Another three died in what the statement described as "a fierce battle in which an unidentified number of policemen were killed or injured."

Al Gamaa claimed three innocent citizens arrested from their houses were later brought to the battle scene, shot to death and presented as terrorists killed in the exchange of

More than 330 people have been killed in a two-year battle between government and Muslim extremists seeking to overthrow the largely secular reg-ime and establish a strict Islamic state. Extremists target top government officials, police officers, foreign tourists, Christian Copts and secular

intellectuals. Local and international buman rights advocates contend the Egyptian government's re-cord is bad due to arbitrary detention, torture and taking families of fugitives as hos-

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights raised doubts in a recent report over the deaths of 10 extremists whom police also claimed were killed in an exchange of fire. The report quoted witnesses as saying some of the defendants were first shot at and then laid in the street to give the impression they were resisting arrest.

Al Gamaa's Friday statement vowed to continue its attacks, which it said were effective in that they forced the government to adopt its iron-fist policy. Extremists target foreign tourists and banks to deprive the government from necessary sources of income. They also believe banks are against the rules of Islam, which prohibit fixed interest

rates as usury. Friday night's three-page Al Gamaa statement denied responsibility for an attack on a historical Christian monastery in southern Egypt in which five Christians, including two priests, were killed in early March.

Government-owned mediz immediately held Al Gamaa responsible for the incident. It was used to prove that extremists want only to destablise Egypt and create sectarian The statement accused

Christians instead of extremist Muslims of carrying out attacks reflecting their views that cer-tain Christians want to provoke the government to suppress extremists.

"Al Gamaa, which is falsely accused by extremist) seculars and communists that it is behind such cowardly attacks, calls upon the regime to investigate the case and immediately treveal those responsible for it," the statement

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#### Tel. 811295 WEATHER

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**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENAER** 

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# U.S. senators' wives delegation ends visit with high praise of QAF development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of wives of U.S. senators completed a one-week visit to Jordan Saturday with high praise for the work of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), according to a QAF statement.

The Queen Alia Fund is an inspiration to peoples of countries all over the world. It demonstrates the value of volunteer organisations, helping people help themselves," said Mary Johnston, wife of Senator Bennett Johnston, chairman of the senate armed services committee.

Invited by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma to learn about Jordanian society, its social and economic development and particularly Jordanian women's role in such, the delegation was introduced first-hand to the work of QAF.

The group visited an exhibition of products of individuals participating in QAF's income-generating and pro-ductive projects including those based on traditional skills and using resources available in the beneficiaries' en-

The delegation also visited two of the more than 40 community development centres established by QAF in needy urban and rural areas across Jordan. At the Princess Basma Centre for Social Services in Eidoun, the American women attended a Rural Market, a pioneering scheme that gives local women the opportunity to sell their agricultural and



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and her guests, a delegation of wives of U.S.

Senators, Friday tour facilities of the Disi Social Community Development Centre opened that day (Petra photo)

food products. The delegates also had an open discussion at the centre with representatives of the local women's sector.

The Queen Alia Fund stimulated the self-reliance, independence and economic security of Jordanian women, which is the first step towards political maturity," said Nancy Murkowski, wife of Senator Frank Murkowski of the senate energy committee.

The delegation also attended the opening of the Disi Social Community Development Centre on the edge of Wadi Rum. The centre serves several localities and Bedouin tribes by offering community development as well as women's and children's programmes.

In conjunction with the opening of the centre, the women also visited the Wadi Rum Agricultural Project, which is a successful example of a "greening the desert" scheme, said QAF.

said the QAF statement.

According to Princess Basma, "this visit contributed extensively to furthering the understanding of the American people of Jordan as a country, its people and efforts made in the field of development as well as cementing the

friendship between the American and Jordanian people." The delegation was accompanied on the visit by Virginia Egan, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Wil-

# Obeidat says experience of U.N. handling 🔆 of Hebron massacre proves might still rules

'Power continues to be the only viable language in the world'

AMMAN (J.T.) - Recent international developments and the emergence of the new world order have had adverse, and dangerous consequences on the security and stability of third world countries, said Senator Ahmad Obeidat, and international forums have produced little in addressing the predicaments of the developing world.

In an address to the 91st International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Paris Saturday, Mr. Obeidat criticised the policies of the major world powers, saying that such policies have helped to deepen the concept among third world nations that power continues to be the only viable language in the world, and that the interests of the powers, which dominate and influence international resolutions, are held above all other considerations. He said the U.N. Security Council's handling of regional conflicts and the occupation of other countries by force as well as human rights violations are

directed by biased attitudes and double standards. Senator Obeidat strongly criticised the U.N. Security Council's slow-paced handling of the Hebron massacre.

Furthermore, he said the Security Council failed to take appropriate measures to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Referring to the situation in Iraq, Mr. Obeidat said that the



Ahmad Obeidat

sanctions are still in place though there are no longer justifications for their con-

Palestine acts of repression and violence continue unabated a: a result of the major powers disregard for the principles o justice and right, added Mr Obeidat.

Such policies, he said, have dismayed and angered Arab and Muslim nations which are becoming increasingly con vinced that the West is deter mined to weaken them and drain their resources. Mr Obeidat called on the French Parliamentary Committee, the host group of the IPU meeting to work towards ensuring human rights for all people.

He also appealed to various world organisations to acwithin the United Nations to achieve justice and peace.

#### TCC, **Siemens** sign contract for 13,000 telephone lines

AMMAN (Petra) - The Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) and the German electronics firm Siemens Saturday signed a contract for the installation of electronic telephone exchanges in Mafraq Governorate which will make available 13,000 new telephone lines and have a capability of 19,000, according to Walid Dweik, TCC acting director general.

According to Mr. Dweik the total cost of the project was expected to reach \$5.5

Under the terms of the agreement Siemens will instal 15 electronic exchanges, which should provide adequate service to all the towns and villages within Mafraq Governorate, said Mr.



Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Siemens Saturday sign a contract to install acting director Walid Dweik and a repre- an electronic telephone exchange in Mafraq sentative of the German electronics firm Governorate (Petra photo)

Dweik, adding that the number of exchanges can be increased to 24 in the future, He said that as part of the agreement Siemens will also set up a national and international telephone exchange in

Tlaa Al Ali district in Amman to boost existing telephone service in the capital. Mr. Dweik said the German company has also agreed to train Jordanian engineers and technicians on the opera-

tion and maintenance of the new exchanges in training courses in Germany. He said the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is financing the TCC

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## The operatic beauty of Katia Ricciarelli to shine over Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - In the firmament of music stars, where opera singers shine even brighter than other musicians, Katia Ricciarelli is definitely one such star.

She belongs to the rare group of talented performers who are gifted with an excep-tion blend made of magnifi-cent vocal possibilities, fine musicianship, great acting, beauty and undeniable stage

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the National Music Conservatory-Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Italian embassy in Amman will present the Italian Prima Donna Katia Ricciarelli. accompanied on the piano by Professor Vincenzo Scalera, for a one night only benefit performance at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, on Tuesday.

During her brilliant career, of 25 years, Ms. Ricciarelli has sung with Placido Domingo, José Carreras,

Luciano Pavarotti, José Van Dam, and under the baton of Herbert Von Karajan. Claudio Abbado, Sir Georg Solti, Lorin Maazel and Riccardo Muti.

A discography of more than 30 famous operas, recorded with major labels like EMI, Sony and D.G., spans from Rossini (1792-1868), Donizetti (1797-1848), Bellini (1801-1901), to Bizet (1838-1975), and Puccini (1858-1974). What else could be added?

The "Grande Soprano" was particularly remarkable in her role of Desdemona in Franco Zefirelli's film version of Othello, with Placido Domingo as Othello.

Pianist Vincenzo Scalera, an Italian-American born in New-Jersey, is one of the most sought-after accompanist. His name has also been linked to conductors like Claudio Abbado and Carlos Kleber, and to singers like Montserrat Caballé as well as José Carreras in his recording of the great tenor's "Comeback

The programme of the exceptional concert in Amman



Katia Ricciarelli

will include pieces by Sarti, Vivaldi, Handel, Rossini (Canzonetta Spagnola, etc...), Tosti, Catalani and Puccini ("Tu Che Di Gel Sei Cinta" from Turandot). Whatever the weather

forecast Tuesday night, for all music lovers, here in Amman the sky will be clear and the stars will shine. The proceeds of the recital

will go to benefit the National Music Conservatory.

#### **HOME NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Royal Decree approves Abu Odeh appointment

AMMAN (Petra) - A Royal Decree Saturday was issued approving a Cabinet decision appointing Jordan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Adnan Abu Odeh as the Kingdom's non-resident ambassador to Panama. The decree also approves the appointment of Jordanian Ambassador to India Kamal Hasa as the non-resident ambassador to Nepal.

#### Farmers' debts to be rescheduled

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday said the government will reschedule debts of the

Jordan valley farmers who did not sell their agricultural produce this year. In a meeting with a delegation representing the farmers, Dr. Majali said the government was working on plans to establish a company which comprises all landowners in the Jordan Valley as shareholders in accordance with the size of their property. The company, a public shareholding company, will be charged with establishing a parallel market in the Jordan Valley and will be authorised to manage some agricultural projects, said Dr. Majali. At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the demands and paeds of the formers who have been administed for the demands and needs of the farmers who have been complaining for several months about their inability to repay their debts.

#### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

- Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balka' Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel.
- ☆ Computer exhibition at the National Amman University. \* Photo exhibition of the Hashemites and the heroic deeds of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan Zaitounah
- ☆ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Husam Khader and Rahim Al Shaykhi at Ália Árt Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m-8:00 p.m.) (Tel.
- ☆ Exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Manan Shamma, Khalid Aimuz, and Mamdouh Kashlan at Ab'aad Art Gallery.
- the Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funum of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ☆ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzouz

- and Aoun Al Droubt at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abdullah at the Baladna Art
- ☆ Exhibition by artist Shawkat Al Rubai'y at the Orfali Art
- Gallery in Um Utheina (Tel. 826932) \* Book exhibition at the Safeway International.

#### THE FIRST AMMAN THEATRE

- ☆ Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ☆ Drama entitled "Kawalees" at the studio theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

#### FILM

☆ Flim entitled "Firefox' at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m. (135 minutes).

#### LECTURE AND SEMINAR

- Lecture entitled "Islam and Politics" by Dr. L. Carl Brown, professor of foreign affairs at Princeton University, at the headquarters of the Progress and Justice Party in Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Seminar entitled "Our Culture Vis-a-vis The Challenges of Normalisation" by Dr. Sultan Al Osous, Mr. Mwaffaq Mahadin, and Mr. Subhi Taha at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

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## Shulamit bares the 'sin'

SHULAMIT ALONI, leader of the Israeli Meretz party and minister of communication in Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government, has once again become the target of venomous attacks by Zionist religious parties and right-wing groups. Members of the Labour Party, with whom Aloni is allied, and even fellow liberals from Meretz, have not spared her the criticism that is intended mainly to appease the ultra-nationalists and the extremists and cover up for the brutality and blunders of the army. Israel's sacred cow.

Aloni had, in an interview with Radio Israel, levelled the strongest criticism at the army by a serving minister in a long time. She criticised her country's military establishment, which in effect is a senior partner of each Israeli government in setting and executing policies, for its handling of the attack against three Palestinian fighters holed up in a house in the centre of Hebron in which heavy weapons were used resulting in great collateral damage. The minister described the army's operation in a city under curfew as "a celebration that should never have been permitted," in a clear indication of her and many other people's unhappiness over the army's laxity in and disregard for protecting the Palestinians as revealed in testimonies to the commission set up to investigate the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

Aloni also infuriated the Israeli establishment by calling for the removal of Jewish settlers from Hebron because "their settlement is born in sin." "By being there," she said in the interview "they are turning the political dispute into a religious war." That naturally did not sit well with her detractors, since they have been maintaining all along that it is the Arabs and Muslims who seek a religious war, not the Jewish fundamentalists.

Aloni, to her credit, did also talk about the latter, when she reminded fellow Jews that "whoever opened a synagogue in the (Ibrahimi Mosque) is guilty of the most vile, ugly provocation." To this, Ariel Sharon retorted that "the only reason we are here is because of ties to our ancient homeland and historical sites like Hebron." Sharon's response reveals the thinking of the Israeli establishment that rejects all criticism from within, especially that which touches on the claims on which the Israeli state was established. However, myopic Israeli leaders should be grateful to Aloni who recognises the shortcomings inherent in the thinking of the Israeli leadership, shortcomings that do not only endanger the Palestinians but the Jews as well. After all, as Aloni herself said. "Let (the Israelis) not forget that the God of the Muslims has many, many more troops than the God of Jews," when referring to religious rights inside Haram Al Ibrahimi and elsewhere in Palestine.

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

DISCUSSING THE Arab League Council meeting in Cairo Saturday Al Dustour daily said that the Arab Nation does not want the foreign ministers meeting there to issue statements and sets of recommendations, but rather announce a decision on taking practical steps towards reestablishing genuine solidarity among Arab countries. The Arabs should rise to the level of the Israeli challenge and must take into account the current atrocities practiced by Israel in the occupied territories and Israel's defiance of U.N. resolutions and insistence to hold on to the occupied Arab lands, demanded the daily. The time has come for the Arab regimes to reconcile in view of the common threats to their existence; and the Arab League meeting in Cairo offers a good opportunity for them to do so. said the daily. The paper stressed that the Arabs must take a collective action in the face of Israel's continued attempts to escape the implementation of U.N. resolutions and its continued acts of blackmail against the Arabs and the world community at large, said the daily. It said that Jordan hopes the Arab League Council would open the way for the first step towards solidarity and reconciliation.

TAHER AL Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, criticised the Ministry of Supply's policies concerning the olive oil supplies noting that the local oil producers are continually facing marketing problems. The ministry does not provide any protection for the fill producers in Jordan and is importing Tunisian oil to flood the market, rendering the local production useless, charged the writer. He said that the ministry has lately imported 7,000 tonnes of olive oil from Tunisia. forgetting about its pledge to the local producers that this step would not be taken in order to help them market their own produce. In other countries the government normally allocates funds to promote the sale of the local agricultural products. but in Jordan the Ministry of Supply tends to take measures that are considered detrimental to the interest of our farmers. continued the writer. He said that the Ministry of Supply can now buy the local produce for marketing it in Jordan and abroad so that it can come to the help of the distressed oil

Sunday's Economic Pulse

# There is still time to review sales tax

The Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament took five weeks of extensive hearings to give its conditional blessing to the sales tax law. The committee introduced many changes in the text of the sales tax law as possible to make a point. The point is that the committee cannot be taken for granted and that it does not have a rubber stamp to approve the governments' requests as they are.

Some of the alterations produced by the committee make sense, such as deferring the second stage of the law (value added tax) for a minimum of five years instead of three, making the list of exempted items part of the law instead of leaving it to the discretion of the Council of Ministers and reducing the registration threshold to JD 100,000 instead of JD But the committee went on to the heart of the law, when it

reduced the rate on luxurious goods from 20 per cent to 10 per cent and the general rate from 10 per cent to 70 per cent. It also expanded the list of exempted goods.

With these two changes, the treasury will lose over 40 per cent of the revenue that the tax was supposed to generate. Assuming that the excise rate on certain commodities, such as

cigarettes and alcohol will not be touched, the net loss of revenue will be in the order of JD 45 million a year.

The original list of exemptions was already extensive. It covered 69.7 per cent of the average family budget. Further expansion was not warranted, except for the benefit of the image of the committee as a protector of the poor and limited-income groups.

The main concern of the original law was to preserve price stability, so that the introduction of the law will not result in major price fluctuations. The majority of the commodities were supposed to maintain the same rate i.e., the new sales tax rate will be equal to the old consumption tax rate. The committee disturbed this objective by reducing almost all rates, which will work to the benefit of retailers and wholesalers, not the consumers, because the market already absorbed the present price.

It would have been understood if the committee introduced the rate of 7 per cent or even 5 per cent to be applicable to commodities which were not subject to consumption tax before. But to reduce the tax rate, already in use with no problem, was not necessary socially or justified financially.

It may not be too late to make the correction. The Parliament did not start debating the law and the report of the Finance Committee. For good or bad, it is the practice of the Parliament to debate issues all over again, restarting from zero, and not to depend heavily on the findings and recommendations of the specialised committies. In many instances those recommendations were turned down to the benefit of the original text submitted by the government. Hopefully, this will be the case regarding most of the ammendments recommended by the Finance Committee.

The chairman of the committee argued that the proceeds of the sales tax will reduce the deficit of the budget substantially, and that will encourage the IMF to press for further reductions of the deficit; so why not space the reduction of the deficit over more years? This is obviously a bad argument, because it suggests that the IMF is more eager to make Jordan financially independent and self-sufficient than the Finance Committee itself. If an objective is desirable and achievable, we should accomplish it as soon as possible. Once the deficit disappears totally, we shall no more need to have an adjustment programme supervised by the IMF.

#### Peace talks

# For the sake of martyrs and of peace

By Ali Abunimah

I am sure that I was not alone in feeling a dec sense of disappointment id disillusionment what it was announced that :.. PLO had decided on an ear return to negotiations viii. stael, only a month after the atrocity committed at the Ibrahimi Mosque on the black day of Feb. 25, 1864.

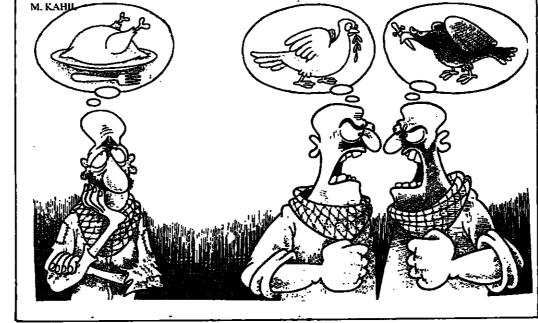
The usual argument deployed by unquestioning supporters of the peace process is to ask "What alternative do we have?" and to brand any of their opponents as extremists and rejectionists. But such people are hiding the full story, and there are several things that must be remembered. First of all, the Security

Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre, and the U.S. abstention on the paragraph calling Jerusalem an occupied territory, deals an historic blow to the Arab cause. By acquiescing this sham resolution, the PLO has given a blessing to the long-standing Israeli claim that Jerusalem shall be its "united and eternal" capital city.

Recall that on Nov. 27, 1989, then U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Representative Thomas Pickering, stated to the U.N. General Assembly.

"Since the end of the 1967 war, the United States has regarded Israel as the occupying power in the occupied territories, which includes the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The United States considers Israel's occupation to be governed by the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the protection of civilian populations under military occupation" (testimony before 3rd committee of UNGA, Nov. 27, 1989).

The Clinton administration's threat to veto the Hebron resolution if it is not allowed to abstain on the clause repeating exactly the position given by Mr. Pickering with regard to Jerusalem. gives the lie to American claims that it is an honest broker. If the peace process is bearing fruit, then it is a bitter fruit indeed. The PLO should have pointed out the hypocrisy of the U.S. posi-tion and insisted that the



Americans reiterate their long-standing position that Jerusalem is in fact occupied. Instead, Israel has been allowed to take a further step forward in fulfilling the historic aims of the Zionist prog-

The second thing we must reflect on is that if in the past seven years there has been any progress at all in the peace process, it is entirely due to the sacrifices made by the martyrs of the intifada nd the Palestinian population who continues to offer every resistance to the brutality of occupation and to pay a very heavy price.

"It is insensitive to view the tragedy of Hebron as a political opening. The alternative, however, which tragically seems to be turning into reality, is to allow those martyrs to have perished in vain."

It was neither the skill of leaders, nor the resolutions of Arab summits that brought Israel to the negotiating table, but the increasing political, diplomatic and economic cost of maintaining an inhuman occupation under the floodlights of world attention. Many Israelis compare the effects of the intifada to that of the Vietnam war, on American morale. Israelis

are tired of fear and insecurity, and have come to the realisation that force can kill and maim thousands of individuals, but it can never crush the spirit of a nation. The purpose of Arab participation in the peace process must be to exploit these facts and trends to the benefit of the Arab cause, instead of helping Israel to relieve itself of the pressure it feels, both internally and externally.

By what right do the achievements of the people, paid for in blood, for such a cheap price? The intifada. like the Resistance in wartime Europe, is one of our greatest political and strategic assets. Now, however, it is being thrown away and thwarted by precisely those people who have gained most in stature from it, and made no sacrifices themselves.

Even those who were most

sceptical about the current peace process might have tempered their grief and anger at the Hebron massacre with some hope. Hope that the intolerable situation that it exposed, and the truths about the nature of the occupation, might finally provide a real opportunity for the PLO to capitalise on the world's sympathy and out-rage, to squeeze from Israel the minimum concessions on matters of vital principle necessary to guarantee the credibility of the peace pro-

It is true that the negotiations must continue, but they

must be based on radically different premises. First, the PLO must abandon the notion that negotiation is synonymous with capitulation. Second, the PLO must demand from Israel a clear statement about what lies at the end of the tunnel. If Israel is so keen on peace, as Rabin and Peres never tire of saying, then let Israel makeclear and substantial conces-

Though Israel is negotiating from a far stronger posi-tion than the PLO, a careful assessment of Israeli aims, past strategies and the character of Rabin himself, could lead to a relatively decent outcome for the Palestinians. While Arab strategic assets are few, they are, like the intifada, important ones. They must be used wisely and not squandered in empty gestures for the sake of shortterm personal gain.

Sadly though, for reasons that are hard to understand, the PLO has thrown the present opportunity to the wind. Some may say that it is insensitive to view the tragedy at Hebron as a political opening. The alternative, however, which tragically seems to be turning into reality, is to allow those martyrs to have perished in vain. If that comes to pass, then all of us, not just the PLO, must bow our heads in shame.

Ali Abunimah is a doctoral student at the University of Chicago, Dept. of Political Science. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

#### **LETTERS**

## Selling the sales tax

A roundtable debate over the sales tax which took place late A roundtable depate over the sales tax which took place last week at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, in which the participants were (Engineering Association President) Laith Shbeilat, (economist) Fahed Fanek, (customs ¡Director) Mohammad Al Jamal and (Director of Consumer Society) Mohammad Obeidat revealed a number of points that could be of interest to your readers:

— It was obvious throughout the debate that opposite sides of the debate (Mr. Shbeilat and the majority of the audience on one side, and the three other participants on the other) were using the issue at hand to express their views regarding the government's general socio-economic policies, which the former group was clearly against and the latter was for.

- The supporters and peddlers of the sales tax, led by Dr. Fanek, used two main arguments. One is that this law is something we cannot avoid because it is imposed on us and that the consequences of its rejection by Jordan would be devastating to the economy, an argument the government avoids to publicise. The second argument is that the effect of this tax would be minimal on the low-income groups and average on the middle class, while the main burden would fall on the shoulders of the rich.

The fact that this tax is imposed on commodities and services and not on certain sectors of the society leads one to think that the supporters and peddlers of this tax, by using such an argument, are encouraging social discrimination and consolidating class separation. In other words, it sounds as if these people are saying that the poor should not eat, drink, wear or use any of the commodities and services used by the middle and upper classes. The middle class then has the same problem as the poor vis-a-vis the upper class. The two lower classes should not even aspire to move up the "social ladder."

When the supporters of the sales tax posed the question of what alternatives we have, they were barraged with answers, such as cracking down on corruption, cutting government expenditure, improving the collection of income and other taxes (which are imposed on certain sectors of society and not on commodities and services), supporting local

industries and agriculture, and so on. In conclusion, it seems that inspite of the long time the proposed sales tax has been under the microscope and inspite of the extreme external pressure we are facing to legislate it into law, a more frank, professional, scientific and open t concerning the whole issue, in conjunction with the overall socio-economic policies of our

all sectors of society and all sectors of the economy. If last Thursday's debate showed anything, it was that everybody had a conflicting set of figures, information and arguments which each one considered as fact.

country, in a bid to get the facts of the effect of such a law on

Mohammad Atiyeh,

#### Jordan's lead

I want to make a few general remarks about three articles by Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh, "The new Arab order" (Jordan Times, Dec. 30-31, 1993), "Arab reconciliation: The need for a summit" (Jan. 27-28, 1994) and "The Yemeni agreement, the emerging Jordanian role in the Arab Nation" (Feb. 24-25,

a) One should notice that the points-dealt with are about the common Arab good, regardless of the various attitudes and orientations; in the end, the message contained in the said articles has, I am sure, reached the very heart of the Arab

b) The articles are a serious endeavour by the author to remind us of some of our recent problems, which we (often) ignore. Also, he offers a new perspective on how to bring about solutions for addressing the Arab situation. c) The articles are neutral and reject bigotry and naive

patriotism. The common thing the writer calls for in the three articles is working hard to achieve what we call "unity". In one of his articles, he discusses this point wisely, concentrating on what articles, ne discusses this point wisely, concentrating on what he calls "coordination", since he believes that it works better than unity, especially at this crucial stage. He also says: "coordination neither ignores nor undermines the political, economical, social and cultural autonomy/independence of

But here my opinion is different; I believe that the Arabs will be stronger if they work towards unity, not simply coordination. To reach unity, we should start with coordination. Unity (I believe) is a chain consisting of stages starting with coordination. Coordination needs a workable basis and such a basis is built through exchanging serious viewpoints, constructive dialogues and logical debates. So the Arabs have

to forget their differences, open a new page and get to work together to find solutions for their common problems. In his last article, the writer talks about the role that Jordan plays on the Arab stage; he sees that role in consultation, dialogue and respect of the views of others. Jordan always

stands with our Arab brothers, specially, when they are in need of help.
Yes, I feel Jordan is indeed qualified to play the role of the brother, advisor and honest broker. The Arab World needs

this new sense of "leadership."

Eiad Najib Badr, P.O. Box 2262, Yarmouk University,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

# 'Removing settlements removes economic, security burdens on Israel'

By Gershon Baskin

THERE IS a significant misconception among Israelis and Palestinians alike that the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DOP) signed in Washington on Sept. 13 precludes the possibility of confronting the settlements issue now without opening up" the document itself.
This argument is even made

by those directly involved in the negotiations. Prime Minister Rabin has stated on more than one occasion that the settlement question is a finalstatus issue and therefore can only be dealt with in three

Yasser Arafat and other PLO officials have said that the DOP must be opened up in order to deal with settlements

to begin negotiations now over

The truth is that it is possible

The provisions for this are within the text of the DOP itself. The agreement does not state that final-status negotiations will begin three years into the process. Rather, it states: "They will commence as soon as possible, but no later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period.

With regard to the interim period itself, the DOP does not say that it will last five years; but that it is a period "not exceeding" five years.

The only direct mention of the future status of the settlements in the DOP is not with regard to their staying in place for five years. Rather, the settlements are defined as one of the final-status issues which will be negotiated "as soon as

possible."
The DOP states that until the final status of the settlements is defined. Israel will retain full responsibility for their security.

It is clearly understood by both sides that the settlement issue is the most complex aspect of the internal security discussions. The settlements themselves place a huge bur-den on the Israeli army and security forces. They also place a huge burden on the economy.

The advantages of moving

into further negotiations on the issue now are quite clear. It would strengthen the hand of the PLO and the few remaining supporters of the DOP within the Palestinian ranks.

Removing problematic set-tlements in the midst of the Palestinian population (Heb-ron, Jericho, Kfar Darom and Netzarim, etc.) would alleviate one of the key security and economic burdens on Israel. A major source of Israeli agents provocateurs opposed to the DOP would also be removed, thereby limiting the likelihood

of violent clashes. Within the Israeli public there is already widespread disillusionment with the 'Greater Land of Israel" vision. Nearly one-third of the settlers are willing to leave if the government would only help them do so. Once the possibility of leaving opens up, many more settlers will follow. This is particularly true of the 68 settlements containing fewer than 50

The entire peace process would benefit from confronting the settlement issue now. The prime minister needs no longer hide behind what the DOP says or doesn't say.

Moving on this issue now would turn the Hebron massacre from a tragic event into a pivotal moment that brings peace closer.

The writer is Israeli director of the Israel/Palestine Centre for Research and Information. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post,

nference

(Continued from page 1)

consent to the entry of Palestinian police force to Gaza and lericho and Hebron even before a final arrangement had been reached.

According to Dr. Anani, the prime minister also discussed with Mr. Ross the powers that would be transferred to Palestinian autonomy authorities throughout the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the exception of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements. Dr. Anani said that during Saturday's session the Cabinet reviewed "campaigns levelled

against Jordan by external par-He said the ministers briefly reviewed a statement by the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International, noting that the state-ment landed Jordan for the democratisation process and political developments in the

Kingdom.
The statement, however, criticised some of the secondary restrictions imposed by the Press and Publications Law and the executions of some common criminals, Dr. Anani

Dr. Anani said the Cabinet heard reports by the information and interior ministers who noted that "suspect campaigns against Jordanian democracy on the part of the Israeli media were continuing." He said that these campaigns "have their own evil objectives and are in line with the current pressures exercised against Jordan to force it to change its national policies and its stands at the

negotiating table."

During the cabinet session, the prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's principled stands, stressing that the Kingdom was seeking "a just durable and comprehensive peace on all fronts and that Jordan was adhering to the agenda it has signed with Israel demanding that all outstanding issues, including the occupied territory, Jordan's water rights, and the problem of refugees be discussed in full."

He said that without acceptable solutions for these issues, Jordan would not conclude any peace deals with Israel.

try's debut appearance at a

league meeting, invited the ministers to hold their next

The tiny Indian Ocean state

Jordan's Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs Talal Al

Hassan on Saturday described

the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre

as the "ugliest crime of our

In an address at the opening

Mr. Hassan said Israeli

crimes continued after the

massacre and have culminated

in the March 24 crime commit-

ted after the adoption of U.N.

Security Council Resolution

and the ensuing Israeli repres-

sive measures against Palesti-

nian living under occupation,

especially in Hebron, clearly

show the dire need for a uni-

fied Arab position condemning

the Israel and exposing its in-

"Following the heinous crime, we in Jordan have

moved at the Arab and inter-

national levels. We held con-

tacts with the permanent and

non-permanent members of

the Security Council to explain

Jordan's condemnation of the

crime and we have called for

providing protection for the unarmed Palestinian people

and demanded that the inter-

national community shoulder

its responsibilities, stressing

the need to remove settlements

from the occupied Arab terri-tories," he said.

period of time," said the Clin-

begin to prepare the ground

These detachments would

ton administration official.

"The ugly crime in Hebron

joined the league in Novem-

meeting in Moroni.

times.'

#### Arab League opens meeting oro Islands, making his coun-

(Continued from page 1) "astonished" that altering the boycott could even be discussed before peace is achieved and Israel vacates occupied Arab territories.

"This is Syria's position," he said. "And I believe it is the same for the majority of Arab

An Arab League official said that all signals he was receiving indicated the Arabs would uphold all levels of the boycott. Delegates at the meeting

opposed efforts by Oman and session of the meeting, Mr. Qatar to end the boycott on Hassan said: "This crime proves firms doing business with Israel, a diplomat close to the that racist trends in Israel have the freedom to do what they league said. wish having the occupation authorities to cover up for their

The two Gulf oil states recently began "intensive efforts" to ease the embargo, but "this campaign did not win the approval" of other Arab courries because of the Heb-ron massacre, the diplomat

"All the other Arab countries want to maintain the indirect boycott" affecting companies dealing with Israel, the diplomat said

The speeches at the opening session concentrated on the Hebron massacre.

Speakers demanded that dismantle all settlements in the occupied territories and withdraw to the pre-1967 borders immediately

The PLO's Farouk Kaddoumi explained why the Palestinians were reluctant to resume talks with Israel on self-rule until they felt Palesti-

nians were safe. Foreign ministers and representatives from 20 of the 22 league members are attending the meeting — those except

Libya and Somalia. Foreign Minister said Mohammad Said of the Com-

Palestinian police in parts of

the occupied territories to be-

In their landmark agreement

signed at the White House last

September, Israel and the PLO

envisioned the creation of a

8,000-strong Palestinian police

force to operate in the Gaza

Strip and Jericho after an

Israeli withdrawal from those

The U.S. official said that

following the massacre, the

parties now saw the urgency of

beginning to implement the agreement quickly. Both Israel and the PLO wanted the

Palestinian police force to begin deploying even before all the details of an Israeli with-

drawal from Gaza and Jericho

"They won't all go in at

once. You would have relative-

were nailed down.

gin as early as next week.

### Jordan firm on assigning responsibility

Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque on Feb. 25.

The resolution reaffirmed that Jerusalem was part of the Asraeli-occupied territories, but Washington abstained on that part of the draft when it was voted on paragraph by paragraph. The resolution as a whole was then adopted without a vote.

Referring to Mr. Abu Odeh's reported remark, the PLO mission expressed "its astonishment over such a statement."

To have "done that would have amounted to total submission to illegitimate requests from the United States administration on this important issue," the statement said.

In the interview with Al Hayat Mr. Abu Odeh reflected statements made by His Majesty King Hussein in an interview with AFP last week, in which he said the U.S.'s abstention during the voting session could have been avoided by not mentioning Jerusalem at all in the resolution by only referring to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 as the areas where the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable.

Dr. Anani said that Jordan felt that the Security Council resolution could not been seen only from the perspective of what its wording was but had to be judged by its ramifications and the reaction it invoked.

"One looks at the content of the resolution and also reactions it brings," Dr. Anani

He explained that Jordan had considered the reaction towards the resolution when it assessed its position from the inclusion of the wording on Jerusalem and the U.S. abstention on that part.

"Had the U.S. vetoed that part, then I would have said that it was not a good decision," Dr. Anani said. "If everyone agrees, including the U.S., then I would have considered it a gain."

"But when there is an abstention, then it is obvious that the issue has been left for future debate, and that is what happened," he said.

The information minister. who has played a key role in Jordan's negotiations with Israel, said that a chain of reactions was caused by the U.S.'s abstention on the Jerusalem part of the resolution.

"First, several Israeli officials considered the U.S.'s position a new one towards Jerusalem," favouring Israeli claims that the city, annexed by Israel shortly after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was its "eternal and united" capital.

The second reaction was from Washington's ambassador to the U.N., Madelaine Albright, who, in a speech she delivered to the Security Council in reference to the resolution, said that the U.S. does not consider territories occupied in the 1967 war as "occupied Palestinian territory.'

The third reaction was from American Jewish leader Leicester Pollack, who after a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton along with 50 other Jewish leaders, quoted the U.S. president as saying that he and his administration consider Jerusalem "the united capital of the State of Israel."

Accord reached on cargo

inspection at Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

officials here describe as over-

zealous enforcement of the

sanctions, proposed early this

year that the inspections be

carried out at Aqaba port by

an international agency. The

proposal was viewed positively

by American administration

officials, according to sources.

on the proposal was at snail's

pace, and Jordan was enraged

by what appeared to be an

escalation of the inspections

and tightened guidelines im-

posed by the American-led

warships patrolling the Red

At least seven Aqaba-bound

vessels, including the Skyman,

were denied permission to en-

ter the Gulf of Aqaba by the enforcers of the sanctions

since January this year com-

pared to 20 during the whole

However, follow-up action

for their colleagues by de-The fourth reaction was veloping installations, comfrom Mr. Clinton himself. Dr. munications network and oper-Anani pointed out that while ating routines. the U.S. president said that his They would also need to sort position on the status of Jeruout day-to-day relations with salem had not changed, "he Israeli forces which would condid not refute his statements to tinue to have overall responsibility for security in the terri-"He left the whole issue to

"There is a very strong convergence in terms of recognising the mutual stake that the Israelis and Palestinians had in changing the realities on the ground," the unnamed administration official said. He called it "one of the more encouraging aspects" of the negotiations Israel and the PLO are holding with the assistance of American, Egyptian and Norwegian diplomats.

#### ly small tranches going in and they'd be phased in over a Bouez says peace talks with Israel are sterile

Israel-PLO talks continue

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

The Lebanese government supported resistance against Israel as long as the Jewish state maintained troops in the nine-kilometre-deep buffer strip in South Lebanon, he said.

"Any country in the world that does not have firm guarantees or does not have the means to liberate its land through diplomatic channels or through its army cannot prevent or fight its people when they want to liberate their

What we demand is an

Israeli commitment. We are not saying that when the last (Israeli) soldier leaves we will see if we will stop the resist-

"We are saying we prefer that Israel make a public commitment... and this opens the way for us to make a military committee to draw a timetable for the withdrawal and then it will be the responsibility of the Lebanese state to end this phenomen a (resistance).

"But the Lebanese state is The Jordanian government not willing to become a guardian of the Israeli borders or repeatedly protested to the U.S. as well as the U.N. Sancprotector of the Israeli occupations Committee against the tion."

(Continued from page 1) the realm of suspicion, and

appears to have changed the status of Jerusalem from being occupied to negotiable," Dr. Anani said. "One must know that there is the logic of the resolution and not just the

Dr. Anani added that Jordan also believed that while the inclusion of Jerusalem in the resolution would have been excellent, "ideally that should come in both in the preamble to the resolution as well as the operative clauses." Resolution 904 pinpoints Jerusalem as part of the Israeli-occupied territories in a preamble paragraph but not in an operative clause which would have been bind-

"There were two choices," Dr. Anani said. "Either you include Jerusalem knowing for sure that all parties will agree to its inclusion and this would have been a perfect situation." or "you leave the issue vague but in agreement with your position that all the territories are occupied and thereby Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories.

Dr. Anani argued that the PLO, by letting it be known that the three-week delay in reaching agreement over the draft resolution was over the issue of Jerusalem, put itself in a "difficult position."

"It couldn't withdraw the word after negotiating it for so long, because it would have appeared to have allowed the fragmentation of the issue." Dr. Anani said. "Then it would look that you excluded it from the general implication of 'occupied territories'."

Jordan, according to Dr. Anani, is worried that with Washington's abstention set a precedent which could mean that if in the future the issue of Jerusalem was to be taken to the Security Council for vote, "the U.S. would base its vote on this precedent."

Dr. Anani said he believed the inclusion of Jerusalem in the resolution "caused an American reaction and several statements which only contributed to creating more ambiguity and confusion over the status of Jerusalem."

"For these logical reasons, Jordan had a different approach (from the PLO's)." Dr. Anani concluded, adding that Jordan "supported the resolution as a text and as a decision but that did not mean that we did not believe that this was not necessarily the best resolution."

The Kingdom, Dr. Anani pointed out, agreed with the PLO's call, made in the Friday statement, "for a united Arab front to confront the indications of a change in the American position on this important "Of course we also feel that

there needed complete Arab coordination on this issue before it was put to vote," Dr. Anani said. "But there

King Hussein, in the interview with AFP, blamed the lack of inter-Arab coordination for the U.S. abstention and said that the state of affairs in the Arab scene had led to the "mishandling" of the Security Council resolution.

"The lack of inter-Arab coordination in critical and difficult circumstances could lead to big losses and negative consequences for higher Arab interests," the King said.

The King, after being alerted to the pattern of voting at that session, contacted key Arab leaders in an attempt to preempt the U.S. abstention.

"siege of Aqaba." (see sepa-rate story) The Lower House

of Parliament urged the gov-

ernment last week to refuse to

return to the U.S.-sponsored

peace talks with Israel before

the blockade of Agaba is lifted

and the lifting is formally announced at the U.N. Secur-

Diplomatic sources said the

inspection of the Skyman could be a "dress rehearsal" for set-

ting up a firm mechanism for

land-based inspection at

Agaba as proposed by Jordan. Lloyds Register of London, an independent international

agency which has extensive ex-

perience in cargo inspections

all over the world, is tipped to

be the body which would take

over the inspection at Aqaba

as and when the mechanism is

Lloyds officials have visited

Agaba several times in the past

three months to evaluate the

facilities available for inspec-

tions and for talks with Jorda-

nian shipping officials.

ity Council.

in place.

## Political scientists, historial

(Continued from page 1) agree on the principle of negotiations and a peaceful settle-ment," he said.

Husni Sheyab, of the University of Jordan, asked why would the U.S. exclude all other democracies in the region and elsewhere and concentrate only on Israel.

Speaking from the audience Abla Amawi, of the Applied Sciences University, said "if Israel is such a democratic country, why don't we invite it to invade the whole of the Arab World?"

Khaled Mismar, the head of the Palestinian Information Office in Amman, attempted to refute the argument that Israel is a model of democracy and countered that the mechanism of decision-making in Israel is directly linked to its prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. "Even in its direct negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Rabin controls the whole process and he is the sole decisionmaker," he said. In his speech titled "Amer-

ican Strategy and the Internal Developments in the Region," Hassan Abu Taleb (Ahram) said the U.S. divides the countries in the region into the following categories: friendly states (such as Jordan, Egypt and Morocco) which it supports; the neutral countries (such as Syria) which in order for it to become a friendly state must adopt internal political openness and consideration for the U.S. interests in the region; the enemy states (such as Iraq and Libya and recently Sudan); and finally marginalised countries (such as Djibouti and Mauritania).

Mr. Abu Taleb (Ahram) said the U.S. attempts to employ the reality of the Arab states to serve its various interests in the region, such as commitment to the international sanctions against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

He added that the U.S. tends to deal with the Arab countries individually rather than as a unit. "Double stan-

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Saturday addresses a meeting of political scientists and historians at the University of Jordan organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the university. On the podium are (sitting left to right): Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the

of Cairo's Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, and Dr. Usama Ghazali, president of the Arab Political Scientists Association (Photo by Rana Husseini)

the region because of the variety of its interests there." Earlier in the morning session, titled "Current Developments in the International Environment," the scholars attempted to define the new world order and came close to admitting that the Arab World

dards govern the U.S. policy in

had only one option in fitting Abdul Mune'm Saed (Ahram) said that countries which are not within the complex network of economic. political and social integration in Europe and Asia will remain unstable and will be characte-

rised by chaos and violence. Former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who presided over the session, highlighted the concept of the "villagisation" of the world brought about by the revolution in communications and telecommunications.

According to Radwan Abdullah of the University of Jordan, the current order is based on political, as well as economic elements. "The United States enjoys a unique political status because it dominates the coalition of the forces which form the economic system," he said.

The conference opened under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali who said that the Jordanian government will look to this meeting not as "just another gathering, but will view it as a milestone in the path towards the promising future."

In the opening session, Sayed Yassin, the director of the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Al Ahram, said "we hope to shape a concrete civilised Arab vision through Arab strategic conferences in order to present defined ideas on achieving world peace, peace in the Middle East, disarmament, third world debt and dialogue among civilisations."

Usama Ghazali, president of the Arab Political Science Association, commended the democratisation process in Jordan which, he said, made it possible to hold such an open and candid conference in Am-

According to Fawzi Gharaibeh, president of the University of Jordan, the task of facing national and regional issues is not the sole responsibility of the government but rather it is the responsibility of establishments and individuals. Dr. Gharaibeh said that the 3-day conference is a further

step in the direction of this

centre. Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh, president of the

University of Jordan, Dr. Sayed Yassin, director

orientation.

Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) prefaced his statement by saying that the CSS has in the past two years refocused its work from issues of security and foreign policy towards areas directly related to the country's basic needs.

Therefore, Dr. Hamarneh said, it is hoped that this conference will come up with practical solutions that can help in addressing the great challenges facing Jordan and the region.

About 30 Arab political scientists and historians from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya are participating in the conference.

## N. Korea says Japan is not safe

(Continued from page 1)

military base. The British military journal also said North Korea appears to have obtained enough plutonium to make up to two nuc-

In a special report Jane's intelligence review said foreign estimates of how much plutonium the country now had ranged as high as 40 kilogrammes, with this possibly rising up to 3,000 kilometres by the year 2000.

Tensions mounted rapidly

this past week as the increasingly isolated and defiant North Korea repeatedly warned of war over international efforts to curb its nuclear



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# GATT chief says world trade "ules will protect poor, weak

RABAT (R) - New world Chairm trade rules will protect the MAHM poor and weak and open up vast employment opportuni-ties, GATT Director General Peter Sutherland said Satur-MOHAI Editor-i

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The most important area of the new rules is that they will protect the poor and weak from the law of the jungle," he

He said the GATT accords to be signed next month in the south Moroccan city of Marrakesh "will be more important for developing countries than for anybody else."

developing world the accords would "encourage development of agriculture, the textile and clothing industries, and open them up to new industry through relocation by industries seeking cheaper labour."

"A new structure will be set up that avoids marginalisation and ensures market access based on regulations rather than the wielding of a big stick by the powerful," Mr. Sutherland told Reuters in an interview in a Rabat hotel.

"We are seeing the biggest revolution in the world in eco-

of perhaps five billion, with a system that provides an umbrella of rules to protect everybody," he said.

There has been a seductive appeal in protectionism to maintain employment," he said, "it was the policy of 'beggar my neighbour" but job creation is export-led. There are prospects for dynamic opportunities with the expansion of trade."

After discussing arrangements for the signing ceremony with King Hassan of Morocco on Friday night, Mr. Sutherland said foreign or trade ministers from 120 countries would sign the accords which run to 20,000 pages.

The ceremonies on April 11-15 will also be attended by associate states including Russia and China and delegates from 27 international organisa-

It is expected about 30 countries will be able to ratify the accords immediately in Marrakesh. The objective is to implement them under the World Trade Organisation by Jan. 1 next year.

#### Toxic waste exporting banned

GENEVA (AP) — After years of dumping toxic waste in poor nations, a U.N.-sponsored conference banned the practice Friday after overcoming opposition from the United

worldwide

States, Japan and Germany. The prohibition against hazardous waste exporting also covers materials sent to developing nations for recycling, as well as for final disposal. It takes effect on Dec. 31, 1997. The ban on hazardous waste

exports was reached by ministers and officials from more than 60 nations after five days of wrangling.

It was seen as a victory for environmentalists and Third World nations which have argued that they should not be used as garbage dumps for potentially poisonous pro-

"At last, the loophole of being able to export waste under the guise of recycling will be eliminated," said Kevin Stairs of the environmental

responsibility for their waste production problem instead of dumping it on their neighbours," he said.

run out of space and into local opposition, they have increasingly sent waste abroad.

to monitor this.

ban would not prevent illegal shipments. It will be up to individual governments to take action against companies that try to secretly dump their waste abroad.

The United Nations estimates that about 400 million tons of hazardous waste is produced each year, 98 per cent in wealthy nations belonging to the Organization for Economic

The conference was held to review the Basel convention on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, which has

#### economy, now sliding towards of its dollar value since Jan. 1 as the central bank, keen to recession and possible hyperinflation with public finances in conserve its dwindling foreign Credit Lyonnais under fire after rescue plan

PARIS (R) — "Discredit Lyonnais," the French daily Le Quotidien screamed Friday, leading a chorus of outrage that taxpayers are to pay for the errors that brought the state-owned banking giant Credit Lyonnais to its knees.

ANKARA (R) — Turks vote

Sunday in municipal elections which will test whether they

trust Prime Minister Tansu Cil-

ler's coalition government to

tackle a looming economic cri-

Bankers said brokers pre-

dicted sharp post-election price

rises, but were divided on what

impact the polls would have on

markets thrown into chaos by a

plunging lira and soaring in-

"All prices will go up after the elections, that's all we can

know," said one bank's secur-

ities department manager, re-

flecting a mood of bleak uncer-

tainty that has gripped the

He said the government

Voters' minds are fixed on

would relax price restraints on

state-run companies to allow

the plight of a once-vibrant

them to offset their losses.

business community.

The bank Thursday unveiled a loss of 6.9 billion francs (\$1.21 billion) for last year, more than tripling its 1992 deficit into one of the biggest losses in French corporate his-

To staunch the flood of red ink, the conservative government stepped in, injecting 3.5 billion francs (\$614.5 million) in cash and pledging to guarantee up to 18.4 billion francs (\$3.23 billion) of dud real estate loans.

Linking the government bail-out to the advertising slogan the bank used during its breakneck expansion — "the power to say 'yes" — the financial daily Less Echos ran

the headline: - "The powersthat-be say 'yes.'

Turkish economy totters on brink

their worst state for 15 years.

ing consumer durable goods

maker Arcelik has said it was

halting production for two

weeks from April 18 due to

falling demand. Car manufac-

turers and ancillary industries

have already slowed output.

The polls cannot change the

party balance in parliament.

but a humiliating defeat for Ms. Ciller's True Path Party

(DYP) could turn her into a

lame-duck leader and streng-

then opposition calls for an

early general election. Parlia-

ment's normal term expires in

Ms. Ciller, in power only since June, retains some popu-

jar appeal as Turkey's first

woman premier, but this year's

money troubles have tarnished

her reputation as a U.S.-

The lira has lost 33 per cent

trained economist

Ominously, Turkey's lead-

reserves, dropped its old policy

of keeping the lira overvalued.

change Index, now at 14.834,

has slumped from a peak of

29.322 it reached in mid-

January, as business confi-

dence ebbed and lira interest

"Election defeat for Ciller

can send the index down to

around 13,500. If the govern-

ment emerges stronger, it may surge to 18,000 levels, but from

then on the market will watch

for new economic measures,'

said Tulga Kumbasar, port-

folio manager at Finansbank.

overnight interest rates to 450

per cent from 400 per cent,

keeping the lira in a wide

23.800-24,000 range against

Some bankers predict

another dollar surge after the

polls, saying high interest rates

alone can only postpone the inevitable while dramatically

the dollar.

The central bank has raised

rates spiralled higher.

The Istanbul Stock Ex-

Credit Lyonnais' rapid growth began in 1988, when the newly reelected socialists installed Jean-Yves Haberer as chairman.

Dubbed at the time by a British business magazine" a man with no ideas." Mr. Haberer turned out to have too A believer in the concept of

"universal bank" with a range of stakes in industry, Mr. Haberer had pumped the bank's assets up by more than 80 per cent to just short of two trillion francs (\$350 billion) by the times he was sacked by the government in November. That left Credit Lyonnais the biggest bank in the world outside Japan.

The economic downturn. heavy exposure to the depressed property market and promthat strategy sour.

#### by Lockerbie bombing FRANKFURT (R) - Insur-Machines Corp. executive had

ance claims after the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988 are now expected to total around \$400 million, double initial estimates, a leading German

Muenchener Frankona Rueckversicherung A.G. told journalists that he jump in insur-ance claims followed a 1992 U.S. court ruling that Pan Am was guilty of wilful misconduct in its baggage screening proce-

tives of the victims to file individual claims for compensation. He added that the ruling against Pan Am did not alter in any way the liability of air insurers. While Pan Am, once the

world's largest airline, has gone into liquidation since the 1988 bombing, it still exists as a legal entity to clear up out-

Mr. Kann said the family of

9 Put away 13 Singing voice 14 Pry 15 Anzona Indian 17 On the —

(impulsively)
20 Staff of attendants
21 Garry too far 22 Halluchoger
25 Support
27 — rule
28 Military

Air insurers hit hard an International Business

filed the largest claim of

around \$13 million. Relatives

increasing the government's

Others expect Ms. Ciller to

announce drastic economic

measures which would restore

confidence and stabilise the

"After the elections, peo.

ple's purchasing power will go

down, so nobody will rush to the foreign exchange bureaux

to buy dollar and demand will

fall," said the treasurer of a big

Many bankers and indus-

trialists say inflation, now at an

annual 73 per cent, will his

Turkish newspapers say!Ms.

Ciller's newly appointed state minister for the economy,

Aykon Dogan, is preparing an

austerity package to apply af-ter the nationwide polls for

But in her election cam-

paign, Ms. Ciller has not

sought to prepare voters for

the radical measures past gov-

ernments have avoided.

mayors and local councils.

triple digits this year.

ALANI

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private bank.

of another executive were seeking around \$9 million. making Lockerbie "one of the greatest damage cases for air insurers," he said. In the first settlement in 1992 Pan Am paid \$9.23 million to the family of a Persico

an out-of-court settlement with families of the Scottish dead

Insurance analysts said Pan Am's insurer, USAIG, part of United States Aircraft Underwriters Inc. could face direct damage claims amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.

insurers were also likely to be hit by this week's Airbus A310 crash in Siberia because the machine, although opera d by Aeroflot, was leased and therefore insured in the west.

#### reinsurer said. Achim Kann, chairman of Inc. executive killed in the bombing. In 1990, the airline reathed That paved the way for relaand injured.

Mr. Kann said Western air

#### France and Germany to seek scope for lower interest rates Shi Frankfurt (R) - The Thursday's decision was in however, be carried out at the

central banks of both Germany and France pledged Friday to continue the fight against inflation but made clear they would seek the scope to cut interest rates again whenever possible. In speeches to a Franco-Cerman financial markets con-

ference in Frankfurt, the governors of the two central banks also underscored the importance of monetary cooperation between France and Germany as an anchor of European in-**Bundesbank President Hans** 

Tietmeyer told a hall packed with bankers and monetary officials that Germany's fight against inflation was not over and the central bank could not ignore the potential inflationary threat of surging money

But he added, "we will of course continue to test whether there is scope for rate cuts." interest-rate cuts could not,

fight inflation

NEW DELHI (R) - Indian

Finance Minister Manmohan

Singh has said that inflation

would not be allowed to gain

met," he said, speaking about

worries that inflation could

will not be allowed to gain

further strength," Mr. Singh

added in a speech at the open-

ing of a two-day conference on

the Indian economy, organised

in New Delhi by Euromoney

The annual inflation rate

rose to 9.05 per cent in the week ended March 5, crossing

the nine per cent mark for the

The inflation rate began fall-

ing from a high of almost 17

per cent in August 1991 after

the government initiated a

series of economic reforms in

the 1992/93 fiscal year ending in March 1993 was seven per cent against 12.8 at the end of

the 1991/92 year.

Mr. Singh said India now had foreign exchange reserves of more than \$17 billion and

food grain stocks of almost 23 million tonnes. The exchange

reserves were equivalent to seven months of imports.

He said if necessary the gov-erament would use the foreign

exchange to import supplies of

essential commodities to stabil-

Last week the government

allowed sugar imports to check

rising prices because domestic

production was expected to fall

by 200,000 tonnes in the crop

Mr. Singh also said the gov-

ernment would strictly control

its own spending.

He said the first phase of

India's three-year-old reform

programme was almost com-

The budget for fiscal 1994/95

was designed to stimulate

growth, restructure taxation

and integrate the economy with the global trading system,

Mr. Singh said the reforms

had given the country new

confidence and Indian indus-

try, protected for almost five

decades, had to learn to com-

its inferiority complex. I be-

lieve Indian industry is fully

capable of meeting the global

In the current year, India

will bring in \$2 billion in foreign direct and portfolio invest-

ments in addition to \$3 to \$3.5

billion raised on the Euroissue market by Indian companies.

challenge," he stressed.

"Indian industry has to shed

pete internationally.

year ending in September.

The annual rate at the end of

first time in 69 weeks.

July that year,

ise prices.

he said.

"This challenge will be

"Inflationary expectations

Indian

minister

vows to

further strength.

magazine.

risk of fuelling inflation.

A policy of rushed rate cuts would not be in line with the aim of reducing inflationary expectations and making sure that no new inflationary expectations emerge, Mr. Tietmeyer said.

Échoing Mr. Tietmeyer's comments, Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet, also stressed that the French central bank's primary aim was maintaining monetary But he noted a cut in the

French intervention rate to six per cent from 6.10 per cent on Thursday showed the trend to easier money in both France and Europe had not been interrupted.

"The Bank of France will pursue its cautious and prudent policy of rate cuts," he said. emphasising, like the Germans, that this would be done in a way to ensure monetary

JOHANNESBURG (R) —

South Africa is preparing to

reenter world capital markets

after an absence spanning

The multi-party Transitional

Executive Council (TEC)

of next month's all-race elec-

tions has set up a special com-

mittee to prepare for a possible

sovereign loan later this year.

work," said Tito Mboweni, de-

puty head of economic plan-

ning for the African National

Congress (ANC) and a prom-

inent member of the finance

South Africa, having re-

turned triumphantly to inter-

national capital markets in

September 1991 after a six-

year exile imposed by anti-

apartheid sanctions, has been

absent again for more than 11/2

It withdrew in 1992 amid

political violence which killed

nearly 15,000 people over four

years of apartheid reforms, set-

backs to democracy talks and

opposition by anti-apartheid

groups to what they considered

premature access to foreign

credit while vestiges of apar-

Mr. Mboweni, referring to

an array of TEC panels formed

to help economic policymakers

lay the groundwork for a post-

theid remained,

"The committee is hard at

overseeing the country ahead

much of the past decade.

return to world

capital markets

line with the Bank of France's policy of maintaining monetary stability, he added. Mr. Tietmever told the con-

ference that west German inflation was falling, but at 3.4 per cent for February it was still clearly too high.

The German central banker also appeared to reject recent criticism of the Bundesbank's policy of monitoring money supply growth as a key indicator of future inflationary

In the first two months of 1994, money supply has surged far beyond the Bundesbank's six per cent target ceiling for growth this year, expanding by 21.2 per cent in January and by 17.6 per cent in February.

Mr. Tietmeyer himself admitted that the latest data were distorted by special factors but insisted that the recent trend of bloated monetary growth had to be taken

apartheid South Africa, de-

scribed the one handling loan

preparations as "probably one

But he added: "There's still

He saw no return to the

market until a government of

national limity, to de installec

after the first all-race elections

of April 26-28 and widely ex-

Nelson Mandela's ANC, pre-

sented a budget for the coming

The budget is normally un-veiled in March, but Finance

Minister Derek Keys said that

for the coming year it would probably be presented in Au-

gust, once a new administra-tion has settled in, although it

Finance Department Direc-

tor General Estian Calitz said

there was "clearly very keen

interest" abroad in South Afri-can paper. Such factors might

favour a return to the market

But some investors might be looking for firm direction on

future government policies and

the budget could provide an appropriate benchmark, he

sooner rather than later."

might be earlier than that.

pected to be dominated

of our star committees.

quite a way to go.

South Africa eyes group Greenpeace. This decision will finally

force rich countries to take full

As wealthy countries have

However, some developing nations, in need of the cash, have continued to accept the shipments. Others, including Africa, Central America and the Pacific Islands, have imposed a formal ban but governments often lack the resources

Conference chairman Chris Lamb of Australia hailed the move as a "historic step."

Mr. Lamb conceded that the

Cooperation and Development

(OECD). been ratified by 64 nations.

South Africa's return to the Signatories of the convenmarket in 1991 met a strong tion had previously agreed that welcome, persuading it to raise OECD nations should stop exthat loan issue to 400 million porting toxic waste for final German marks from 300 mildisposal in developing coun-

#### **HOROSCOPE**

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 27, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENGIES: This Full Moon in Libra, Passover Palm Sunday will best be spent with family and friends in contemplation and reflection on recent events that have captured

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Take steps to improve conditions

at home and have harmony

there. Remove any obstacles in the path of your progress to your TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make sure you are living according to your philosophical beliefs. Make plans to improve your so-

cial life in the days ahead and you will be happy. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find the right outlet for your special talents. An intuitive sug-

gestion could be erroneous now so don't follow it or there could MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to have greater abundance in the future. Show

increased devotion to family members and you will have much love and appreciation. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Outline a course of action that

could give you added income in the future. Plan how to stretch your budget and have more security in the future. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put ideas to work that

will give you added prestige. A loyal friend can give valuable advice at this time for you to get

about things you know little about. Be sensible in handling matters of communication at this time and there will be peace. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have fine creative ideas that need express-ion at this time. Allow time for recreational activities you enjoy with the ones you love.

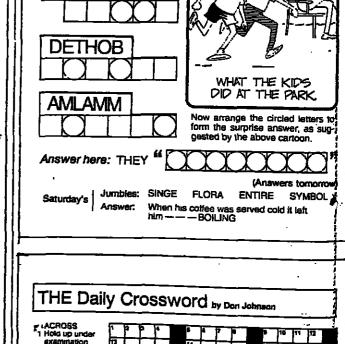
LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-

her 22) Be sure not to comment

SAGITTARIUS: (November 32 to December 31) Make sure that you carry through with new responsibilities you have. Show more consideration for a loved one or there could be problems. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new project you have in mind needs more study before going ahead with it. Take no chances with your health in any activity you are involved with at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An excellent time to catch up on your correspondence. Concentrate on how to be more productive in the future and you will find much success. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Come to a fine accord with family members early in the day. Try to please the one you are most fond of and there will be much affection present.

#### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME o by Heard Armold and Miles Arginor one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. can beat you! MENOG **GWEED** DETHOB WHAT THE KIDS DID AT THE PARK **AMLAMM** Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon. Answer here: THEY Jumbles: SINGE FLORA ENTIRE SYMBOL When his coffee was served cold it left him --- -- BOILING



## Northrop to cut 3,000 jobs by end of year

LOS ANGELES (AFP) --Northrop Corp., a major defence contractor, said it will cut 3,000 jobs by the end of the year, in its ongoing efforts to build up its competitive edge in a shrinking defense industry. "It is clear that the challenges facing the defence industry today are structural, not cyclical." Northrop Chairman Kent Kresa said in a letter to shareholders.

Northrop, since 1989, has managed to pare down a \$1 billion debt to \$60 million at the end of last year. Employment in Northrop has also dropped from a peak 48,000 in 1988 to 30,000 currently. The 10 per cent cut in its work force by the end of the year, bringing employment down to 27,000. will be done following "stringent standards of fairness.

#### Peanuts

lion originally planned.







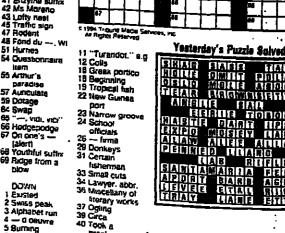




#### Mutt'n'Jeff







# China beefs up controls on prices, investments Qatar signs \$385m

BEIJING (AFP) - The "Chinese government has dein cided to impose emergency measures to control prices and □ sinvestments in a bid to keep inflation below 10 per cent this year, the official press said Friday.

A decree published in the ar major newspapers said that inspection teams would be sent out to all the provinces in order . to monitor price switching structured by suspected specula-

The operation would start in April and last for three months, it said.

tion.

Other teams will be tasked with monitoring investment in fixed capital, which was to a large degree to blame for inflation last year that averaged 14 per cent, reaching more than 20 per cent in the cities.

Inflation for the first two months to 1994 has been put at 20 per cent, and experts are skeptical that the government

can meet its target of keeping price rises below 10 per cent. The text of the decree said: "The country enjoys political stability and economic prosperity, but prices have risen very quickly and the mas-

ses are worried." It said that "certain enterprises have increased their prices under the pretext of economic reforms, and certain businesses do not respect the listing of prices."

The monitoring will apply to about 20 products, mainly food staples, but also on the prices of some raw materials that have recently soared.

The government has warned of heavy fines, and the withdrawal of trading licences, for those to blame for fuelling

The results of the operation will be made public by July 20. Meanwhile, the State Statistical Bureau (SSB) has reported good and bad news for

the first two months. Industrial output grew by 18.2 per cent and capital construction surged by 41.8 per

cent, both dangerously high but still lower than the figures for all of 1993. Retail prices are the most critical area, being the main

yardstick by which China's 1.2 billion people judge the performance of their communist leadership. For 35 major cities the inflation figures were even worse.

Prices rose by 23.3 per cent in January over January 1993 but the report did not give the figure for cities for February. Asked what the figure was, an official of the SSB's data

office said it remained secret.

"It was too high and we fear

that the people cannot accept

The SSB said the price rises were due to an excess money supply, higher prices for raw materials, higher costs for capital and labour and lax control over profiteering and spe-

culation. It said there was a net increase in the first two months in the money supply of 13.7 billion yuan (\$1.57 billion), because of an excess issue of money in January - traditionally a time of high consumption before the lunar new

year holiday. The jump in inflation has haunted the debates in parliament, which has been deluged with official communiques stressing that "stability" is a precondition for the success of

Beijing's economic reforms. To the Communist Party "stability" means keeping inflation within a level tolerable to a majority of its citizens and preventing social unrest.

The government failed that test in 1988. Rocketing inflation prompted widespread urban anger which helped fuel the pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen square in

The report, underlining another government fear, showed that regional and sectoral imbalances grow more pronounced.

Industrial output by state firms in the first two months rose only 1.2 per cent over a

year earlier. Their profits fell and their losses rose, while output of non-state firms rose faster than the national aver-

Industrial output in the coastal provinces grew by more than 20 per cent, but output in the three northeast provinces and the western provinces, where the state sector dominates, was lower than 10 per

Despite repeated orders from Beijing to stop new construction projects, the growth of such projects in the first two months rose by a year-on-year 77.5 per cent from 74.1 per cent in the 1993 period.

tinued construction boom, and the associated heavy investment in fixed assets, as calling into question Beijing's ability to map the economic future. After some 15 years of re-

Some analysts see the con-

form, power has become so decentralised and regional interests so differentiated that it remains to be seen whether Beijing can still simply order up the stability it so badly

# petrochemical projects

DOHA (R) — The Qatar Petrochemical Company Ltd (QAPCO) Saturday signed three contracts with French and Italian companies for a \$385 million petrochemical expansion plan.

The contracts were signed with Technip of France, Italy's Snamprogetti and TPL (Technologie Progetti Lavorie) SPA. which is a Technip subsidiary registered in Italy, for the building of two new plants to add to two existing ones at QAPCO's Umm Said site.

Snamprogetti will build a \$130 million polyethylene plant to produce 180,000 tonnes a year boosting QAPCO's capacity to 360,000 tonnes a year. Production is expected

by January 1996. Technip will build a \$200 million ethylene plant to raise QAPCO's capacity to 525,000 tonnes a year from the current 330,000 tonnes a year. Production is expected by March

TPL will provide utilities for the projects and set up a nitrogen unit at a cost of \$55

QAPCO's General Manager Hamad Rashid Al Mohandi said after the signing ceremony that part of the financing was being arranged by a consortium of banks, Banque Paribas, a unit of CIE Financiere de Paribas, Qatar National Bank, Arab Petroleum Investment Corp. (APICORP) and Gulf International Bank.

"QAPCO is seeking a syndicated loan of \$200 million to finance the expansion," he added, "the arrangers will contribute \$120 million and the rest will be syndicated among local and regional banks."

The remaining financing will be raised from internal reserves and cash flow of QAP-CO during the next two years,

Final agreement with the

"We believe this small

banks will be signed in early May.

A syndication manager said earlier this month that 11 banks have pledged \$231 million in loans to QAPCO to part-finance the new chemical

Pierre Imhof, general manager of Banque Paribas' Doha branch, said the credit was \$31 million more than OAPCO had asked. "QAPCO will now decide whether it would like to retain the excess subscription or negotiate a cut."

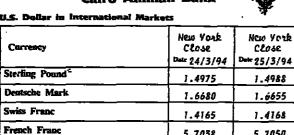
He named the other banks as Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Bank of Kuwait in the Middle East, British Bank of the Middle East, Arab Bank, Al Ahli Bank of Qatar, Doha Bank and the Commercial Bank of Qatar.

Mr. Mohandi said QAPCO's main market was the Middle East and South East Asia and with the new expansion it will reach new markets in Africa.

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**Jordan Times** Financial in co-operation with Markets Cairo Amman Bank



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Swiss Franc	4.0000	3.8750	3.8125	3.7500
French Franc	6.1875	6.1250	6.0000	5.8125
Japanese Yen	2.0000	2.1250	2-1250	2.2500
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Swiss Franc	0.4929	0.4954
French Franc	0.1223	0.1229
Japanese Yen*	0.6658	0.6691
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Swedish Krona	*****	******
Italian Lira*	0.0423	0.0425
Belgian Franc	*****	******

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Rahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8500		
Lebanese Lira* 7	0.040400	0.041675		
Sandi Riyal	0_1861	0.1872		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270	2.3600		
Qatari Riyal	0.7898	0.1910		
Egyptian Pound	· 0.2000	0.2150		
Omani Riyal	1.7830	1.8100		
UAE Dirham	G.1898	0.1910		
Greek Drachma*	0.2675	0.3185		
Cypriot Pound	1.3375	1.3950		

#### Number of South Korean farmers halved since 1980

SEOUL (R) - South Korea's rural population has declined 50 per cent since 1980, a newspaper has said.

The Korea Herald, quoting an agriculture ministry report, said the farming population in 1993 was 5.4 million, down 5.3 per cent from 1992. The 1993 figures represent a

50 per cent decline from 1980, when the rural population was 10.8 million.

Rapid industrialisation and economic growth have spurred mass migrations to cities, especially the capital, Seoul, which is home to nearly 11 million people — one-quarter of South Korea's entire population.

#### U.S. proposes quota for Egyptian shirt imports CAIRO (R) - The United States has proposed restricting

the number of Egyptian shirts it imports to 6.1 million a year, an Egyptian trade negotiator said Saturday.

Egypt opposed the proposal at talks with chief U.S. textile negotiator Jennifer Hillman in Cairo earlier this week, Sayyed Al Bous of Egypt's economy

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The quota proposed is less than the 6.5 per million shirts Egypt exported to the United

States in 1993. The exports in 1993 were a 569 per cent increase over those in the previous year. The 11 S. administration responded

to the sudden increase by cal-

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line for consultations.

quantity will not cause any market disruption....we believe our share of the market is still very small," Mr. Bous

"We agreed to continue the consultations next month in Washington," he added.

Egyptian producers and their government argue that

the trade balance is heavily in favour of the United States and Washington should not penalise them for their success in one area.

In 1992/3, the United States sold Egypt goods worth \$2.09 billion but imported Egyptian goods worth only \$450 million. the Central Bank of Egypt said in its annual report.

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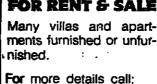
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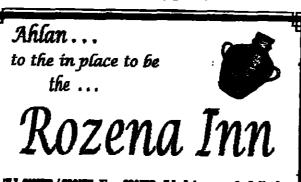
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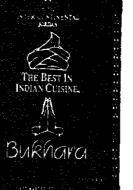




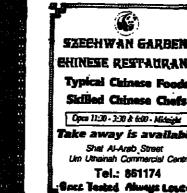




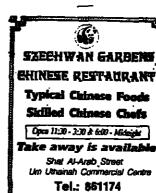




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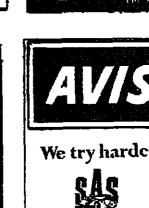


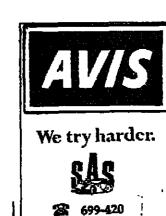
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**Hong Kong firm** 

to build world's

tallest building

HONG KONG (AP) - A Hong Kong property firm plans to build the world's tal-

lest building as a sign of confi-dence in the colony's future

after China resumes sovereign-

ty in 1997, the firm's chairman

said Saturday. Nina Wang,

head of Chinachem Group, said the 1,544-foot (468-metre)

office building to be completed

in 1998 would be named "Nina

Tower" after her. Work on the

skyscraper, which will cost ab-

out 10 billion Hong Kong dol-lars (\$1.28 billion), has already begun close to Hong Kong's

new airport planned for com-pletion around 1997. "Anyone

coming in and out of Hong Kong; will see it," Ms. Wang

said in an interview. The build-

ing will eclipse the 1,454-foot (436 metre) Sears Tower in Chicago, currently the world's tallest building. It will also surpass the planned 1,508-foot

(457-metre) Chongqing Tower

in Chongqing, southwest Chi-na, and the 1,485-footi (450-

metre) Petronas Tower under

construction in Kuala Lumour.

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# Bosnian Serbs step up campaign against Turkish U.N. troops

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs Saturday stepped up their campaign to prevent Turkish troops being sent to join U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, warning the planned deployment could have "fatal consequences.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, unable to muster the forces he needs to supervise Bosnian ceasefires, has reluctantly agreed to accept Turkish troops, seen as pro-Muslim by Serbs.

Momcilo Krajisnik, a hardline member of the Serb leadership, also cited the 500-year Ottoman occupation of Bosnia in a letter of protest to the

"Turkey has... openly sided with the Muslim side," he said. "The Serb Republic parliament charged me with warning you of the fatal consequences of this action.

The U.N. has found fewer than half of the additional troops that peacekeeping commanders want to preserve ceasefires in Sarajevo and central Bosnia while diplomatic efforts to end the two-year war con-

Special U.S. envoy Charles Redman reached the Bosnian capital for talks with the

Ukrainians

KIEV (R) — Ukrainians disheartened by political dead-

lock and mass poverty go to

the polls this weekend with few

seeing any prospect of the elec-

tion outcome producing any

President Leonid Kravchuk

predicted the election would

produce a "less than full-

blooded parliament" and said

he would seek additional pow-

ers to ensure order and pro-

see little

elections

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implementation of a U.S.crafted Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia.

The Bosnian Croat parliament was expected to approve the plan Saturday and the mainly-Muslim Bosnian parliament to follow suit Monday.

Bosnian Serbs who control
70 per cent of the former

Yugoslav republic have refused to join the federation or even continue talks on alternatives until the United Nations lifts sanctions against Serbianled Yugoslavia.

The peace process headed for an impasse when the United States Friday ruled out lifting the sanctions, imposed because Yugoslavia armed, organised and financed the Bosnian Serbs, until an overall peace plan was agreed.

"We are... prepared to dis-cuss the phased easing of sanctions once there is an agreement that has been reached and it is in the process of being implemented and the international community is satisfied it's being implemented," U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

But he indicated the U.S. government had not lost hope that Mr. Redman and influential Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin could cajole the Serbs into a form of federation that would get a settlement back on track.

Muslim and Croat forces hardened their ceasefire in central Bosnia with an agreement to crack down on snipers whose random attacks sow civilian terror and guarantee free traffic on roads.

Snipers will be arrested and handed over to the authorities for trial in future.

Muslim and Serb forces accused each other of continuing attacks in northern Bosnia, which has become the main war theatre since the ceasefires took hold elsewhere.

British U.N. troops in the Maglaj pocket in the region reported they destroyed a Serb bunker which fired on them Friday.

Peacekeepers' spokesman Simon McDowell said a Warrior fighting vehicle blasted the bunker with its main gun when Serbs manning it ignored warning shots from lighter calibre

He reported Serb forces around Sarajevo continued to disrupt aid convoys despite agreements to let them move

The top civilian U.N. official for the former Yugoslavia said Friday he was optimistic about the chances for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Yasush Akashi, Dr. Ghali's special envoy to the Balkans.

For the first time in almost two years, the peace is beginning to break out," he told the U.N. Security Council. However, more peacekeep-

ers were needed to consolidate the progress, he said. Mr. Akashi warned against overconfidence, saying that the current lull in fighting and

move towards a peace settle-ment was fragile. "Mutual distrust is still very deep," he Bosnian Serb shelling of

Sarajevo stopped following a North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) ultimatum in February. More recently, the formation of a Bosnia Muslim-Croat federation ended sporadic fighting between those two

The U.N. Council began considering the future of its peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia Friday. The force's current mandate expires



massive ANC march Friday (AFP photo)

## S. African rightwingers declare Pretoria capital of white homeland

PRETORIA (AFP). — A depleted Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) Saturday mustered about 3,000 followers to proclaim Pretoria capital of a Volkstaat", the separate white homeland South African rightwingers are demanding.

With the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) ordered to stay away and its founding members gone to the pro-election Freedom Front, the remaining Conservative Party hardliners gathered to hear leader Ferdi Hartzenberg lament that it was "just us and the Zulu nation left to defend our freedom."

"And we will not be responsible for the chaos that is certain to erupt if we do not get what we want, a Volkstaat,' he told the khaki-clad Afrikaners. "First it was Bophuthatswana, then it was Ciskei, next it will be Kwazulu and then, my friends, it will be us."

South Africa took over Bophuthatswana black homeland on March 13 after its ruler Lucas Mangope was toppled in a popular uprising; it moved into Ciskei last Wednesday after military ruler Brigadier Oupa Gozo stepped down in the face of a revolt by his security forces.

In a hint that the same fate may befall Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Kwazulu home-land, President F.W. De Kierk Thursday said he would send military reinforcements to the Zulu stronghold in the face of the Inkatha Freedom Party

leader's virulent antidemocracy stance. In a bitter split over whether

or not to contest South Africa's first all-race election on April 26-28, AVF founder Constand Viljoen abandoned Mr. Hartzenberg and formed the Freedom Front.

"It is just us and the Zulu nation that is still standing," Mr. Hatzenberg said. "But we are much stronger than the rest and we will fight to the bitter

The newly proclaimed Volk-staat capital of Pretoria was named after Dutch settler Andries Pretorius, hero of the Battle of Blood River in Natal province where he and 470 settlers routed a 12,500-strong Zulu army in a final confrontation in 1838 in a bid for domination in the province. Despite the absence of the

unruly AWB, in disgrace for its unruly behaviour in Bophuthatswana where members tried to prop up Mr. Mangope, rightwingers Saturday still targetted black journalists. South African soldiers

moved into a squatter settle-ment south of Durban Saturday after four people, including two toddlers, were shot dead in overnight clashes, wit-

nesses and police said. Witnesses said more than half a dozen armoured vehicles helped restore order in Bhambayi after a stand-off between groups supporting the African National Congress (ANC) and the rival Inkatha Freedom Par-

Police said four people in-cluding two toddlers had been shot dead in the impoverished settlement Friday night after about 100,000 ANC supporters marched through central Durban calling for the freedom to vote in strife-torn Natal province. The children were believed

to be from an Inkathasupporting family and at least one of the other victims was from the ANC, police said. Police and peace monitors expected factional violence to

flare in townships around Durban after the ANC march. Natal and the enclaves of the Kwazulu black homeland within the province, heartland for South Africa's nine million Zulus, have seen some of the

worst political violence of the

past four years of apartheid

reform. About 15,000 people have been killed there. The ANC said the turnout for the march was a ringing confirmation that Zulus wanted to participate in the April 26-28 elections, in which the country's five-to-one black majority will vote for the first-

President De Klerk met Mr. Buthelezi in Durban Saturday. in a bid to convince him to allow electioneering for South Africa's first all-race poll next month, a spokesman for the ruling National Party said.

The spokesman would not give further details of the pri-

vate meeting.

COLOMBUS, Ohio (AFP) — A 30-year-old cyclist found himself without wheels when police decided he was drunk and confiscated his bicycle under a new state law. Ronald Beuchert, who has already been convicted three times for drunken driving, lost control of his bicyle as he rode to an alcoholics anonymous meeting and swerved into an oncomming car. He refused to take a sobriety test and police charged him with drunken driving and impounded his bike. Under the new law cyclists are considered the same as motorists. Mr. Beuchert got

#### Tyson fails test

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Former heavyweight boxing champ Mike Tyson has received some bad news going

#### **Mexican rebels: Colosio** murder prelude to attack ing of the ceasefire and the restarting of the war." the SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS

CASAS, Mexico (R) — Mayan rebels accused hardliners in Mexico's government Friday of being behind the assassination of ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio as part of a strategy to squash democratic reforms.

The hardliners and the militarist option inside the government planned and brought to completion this provocation to end all the peaceful intent of democratisation of the counthe Zapatista National Liberation Army said in a communique from southern

The Zapatistas said hardlin Mexican Congress that would clean up the country's elections and loosen the grip of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has ruled Mexico since 1929.

Also, they said the hardliners wanted to abandon efforts by President Carlos Salinas De Gortari to bring a peaceful end to the uprising in Chiapas, which was launched in the name of social justice and political empowerment of Mexico's indígenous people.

This same group, the rebels said, "is the one that ordered the assassination of (Colosio)... and now tries to top off its infamous action with breakcommunique said.

The rebels, who began their

New Year's Day uprising by seizing several Chiapas cities. also said there were "clear signals" that the government was planning to move militarily to end the rebellion and accused the Mexican army of breaking a ceasefire that took effect on Jan. 17.

They said the Mexican army dropped four "incendiary devices" containing some kind of gas near a highway in rebel-held territory March 19 and said the army has been moving troops into the area in preparation for combat. Mexico City newspapers re-

cently reported an influx of troops into the conflict zone, but the army issued a statement this week saying that i was only rotating troops in and out of the area.

The rebels have been negotiating with peace envoy Manuel Camacho Solis since February to end the crisis. At least 145 people died in the early days of the uprising but fighting stopped when a Jan. 17 ceasefire took effect.

Mr. Colosio was buried Friday in his hometown in the northern state of Sonora. Attorney General Diego

Valades said Thursday that Mario Aburto Martinez, 23, confessed to killing Mr. Colosio, but Mr. Aburto would not comment when reporters asked about his motive.

Aburto was transferred to a maximum security prison near Mexico City Thursday night.

#### Italy to elect a new political class

ROME (R) — Italy's 48.4 million voters pondered their options Saturday after a night of fiery oratory and sporadic violence as one of the bitterest election campaigns in the country's recent history came to an end.

Police reported several minor incidents after Friday night's closing rallies. In Milan a candidate for the federalist Northern League

was attacked shortly before midnight by a gang wearing motorcycle helmets who clubbed him with baseball bats. Maurilio Frigerio, who is standing for the Senate (upper

house), was taken to hospital with cuts and bruises but later allowed to go home, his party In Rome the ex-Communist

Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) said a small firebomb exploded after thrown at one of its local A PDS spokesman also said

several of its supporters had come under attack by rightwingers as they were pasting up election posters Friday night. The attacks came shortly af-

ter President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had appealed for Italians to pull together for the good of the country after the divisive campaign. In a speech to Italy's success-

ful Winter Olympic Games athletes he pointedly stressed the virtues of teamwork.

cause of his increasingly erratic

behaviour, saying he remains

the best guarantor of Russian

Mr. Nixon, writing of his

recent trip to Russia in the

New York Times, noted an

onset of pessimism and anti-

American sentiment there and

said "Russia's political scene

can only be described as chao-

"President Yeltsin has lost

much of the mystique from his

historic role in the destruction

of Soviet communism. He may

be finding that history is against him. Over the centur-

ies, revolutionary leaders have

not been good nation-

builders," Mr. Nixon wrote.

to write Mr. Yeltsin off be-

cause of his frequent absences

from Moscow and his in-

creasingly erractic conduct,"

Mr. Yeltsin, he said, "is still

the country's most popular

politician — the best guarantor

of Russian democracy and sta-

bility until his term expires in

"The U.S. should treat him

Mr. Nixon, who returned

with respect and work closely

with him," Mr. Nixon advised.

from Russia a week ago, also

gave high marks to the new

generation of Russian leaders,

particularly economist Grigory

1996.

"But it would be premature

# White House releases Clintons' tax records

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House released tax records aimed at painting President Bill Clinton as a distant actor in the Whitewater affair. as a grand jury called another presidential aide to testify about the Arkansas land deal.

White House Staff Secretary John Podesta was subpoenzed Friday to testify in the investigation of the Whitewater Development Corp of Arkansas, which the Clintons once coowned. .

One source familiar with the Clinton's tax records was at pains Friday to distance the

Clintons from the inner work-

ings of Whitewater.
The Clintons did not manage the venture they did not operate it. They didn't have, keep its books and records. They didn't have ready access to it," the source told reporters at the White House, speaking on condition he not be named.

"They paid their interest as they were requested to do," the source said.

The Clintons have consistently said they lost money on the deal and paid proper interest on loans tied to it. Mr. Podesta is the 12th Clin'ion administration official to be called to testify in the

The subpoena was announced just hours after the White House released tax returns for Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, for the years 1977 through 1979, as well as a year-by-year list of the Clinton's payments to Whitewater.

The documents said the Clintons' Whitewater interest payments totalled \$46,635 over 12 years - \$22,000 less than the 69,000 in Whitewater losses that Mr. Clinton had earlier

# from Malaysian mountain

for a month. The three — Major Roland

Foster, 54, of Britain and Chen Wai Keung, 24, and Cheung Yiu Keung, 32, non-commissioned officers in Hong Kong's Royal Logistic Corps - clambered out of the helicopter and checked into a local hospital.

Colonel Robert Neil, 46, of Britain and private Lam Wai Ki. 27, of Hong Kong — were hoisted out Friday before darkness fell. They were in a hospital in Kota Kinabalu, capital state of Sabah, about 160 kilometres from Mount Kina-

way into the Sabah Medicul Centre that he felt "very well". part of the ordeal, he said: played chess, talked about house extensions, we talked about lots of things."

He said their rations were "getting towards the end a bit. but we were okay."

A doctor at the medical centre said they were down to could have survived longer as

eating one biscuit a day for the last two to three days before being rescued, but added they they were near plenty of water. The Malaysian helicopter

pilot who first spotted the five

said they had been trapped

bottom of the gully at around 1.800 metres (0.000 feet).

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Richard Nixon cautioned against writing off Russian President Boris Yeltsin befive, with two of them lying on the ground." Mohammad Izhar Haroun told reporters. The five soldiers were part

of a 10-man team which started a training expedition on Mount

It was not immediately clear why the group split up. British Prime Minister John Major sent a personal message of thanks to Malaysian coun-

An elite British air force team and hundreds of Malaysian soldiers and park rangers had searched the mountain for the past three weeks, a week after the soldiers failed to return on schedule from an

adventure training expedition. Villagers near the foothills had left food along trails the soldiers might take on their

Yavlinky, Nationalities Minister Sergei Shakhrai, and Economics Minister Alexander

who was snubbed by Mr. Yeltsin for meeting with hardline opposition leaders, described ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zherinovsky as a "ruthless, shrewd, demagogue" but said he would not be elected presi-

"He lacks the presence and conviction to lead a great nation," said Mr. Nixon. "For Hitler, anti-Semitism was a faith; for Mr. Zherinovsky it is a tactic; a cynical attempt to exploit popular bases," he added.

Mr. Nixon referred to the

Minister Andrei Kozyrev's rhetoric has shifted 180 degrees, he said the emphasis on a renewed Russian superpower role was a reaction to the December elections, in which strong showing.

enlargement to include Eastern European countries, Mr. Nixon said, "Russia must not be given a veto over a NATO decision to expand." Mr. Nixon also attached special importance to the indeBosnia look like a Sunday school picnic." "Moscow should be made to

understand that any attempt to destabilise Ukraine - to say nothing to outright aggression - would have devastating consequences for the Russian-American relationship," he wrote. Meanwhile, President Yelt-

sin said in a newspaper interview pulbished Saturday that close cooperation among former Soviet republics should not be reached at Russia's ex-Mr. Yeltsin told the daily

Izvestia that the defunct Soviet Union was far from perfect because it had given too many privileges to non-Russian republics. "They start to forget that

today's independent states were long known as an underdeveloped hinterland'," Mr. Yeltsin said. "We were even proud that they were so quick to get to the point when they could nearly overtake Russia. "No-one mentioned at

whose expense, though." Mr. Yeltsin's decision in December 1991 to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with Russia's Slav neighbours Ukraine and Belarus led directly to the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Of the 15 former Soviet re-

The republics' fears that hardline Russian nationalists or Communists would try to revive a post-Soviet empire were fanned by December election results. The poll gave empire-builders at both ends of the political spectrum a majority in parliament.

Even once-liberal mainstream politicians have since begun copying the hardliners' agendas and seeking a more assertive policy to Russia's neighbours.

Russia diluted itself in the Soviet Union at its own expense," Mr. Yeltsin said. "I am sure such a model has exhausted its resources and no return to it is possible." But Mr. Yeltsin, who was

interviewed by telephone by Izvestia during a holiday by the Black Sea, said that he did favour closer cooperation between the countries which emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Asked whether Russia

wanted a stronger alliance of

former Soviet states, he "I want the question to be out another way: Is the complete disintegration of the for-

mer Soviet Union possible at "It is impossible, because it would lead to a sharp drop in survival chances for every separate republic," he added. "We should find an optimal, painless... form of joint exist-

#### Early Turner paintings turn up in British attic LONDON (R) - Two early

the company said.

watercolours depicting Stonehenge and the Pyramids by 19th century British painter I.M.W. Turner have turned up after lying for years in an attic, the Daily Telegraph reported Saturday. The pictures, to be auctioned in London in May, were painted in 1822 for one of Turner's most important patrons, amateur, antiquarian Walter Fawkes, Fawkes was a descendant of Guy Fawkes who tried to blow up parliament in the failed "gunpowder plot" on Nov. 5, 1605. Although creased down the centre and highly inaccurate, the pictures are very detailed, the Daily Telegraph said. "It's quite funny really. Turner simply rearranged reality to suit his needs. He had never been to Egypt," said Nigel Kirk of auctioneers Mellors and Kirk in Nottingham. northern England. He said an elderly woman brought the watercolours to him last year. Her family had acquired them in 1940 and records show they are absolutely genuine and have value as curiosities,"' said Ian Warrell of London's Tate Gallery that owns most of Turner's work. The pictures are expected to fetch tens of thousands of sterling when they are auctioned on May 26.

#### Police impound cyclist's wheels

his bike back in time to ride to court on Monday.

into his third year in jail: He failed a test that would have won him a high school diploma and shaved time off his sentence. Phil Slavens, assistant director of the Indiana Youth Centre, said Friday that Tyson will get another chance to try the test in three months. More than a diploma is at stake. If he passes the test Tyson could get three months cut from his prison sentence when the date for his parole rolls around a year from now. "He will remain in school and work on the areas in which he was deficient," Mr. Slavens said. He said Tyson got the bad news Thursday. It was two years ago Saturday that Tyson. 27, was jailed after being convicted of rape. By some accounts in the time since, he has become an introspective convert to Islam, vastly different from the swaggering celebrity who thought, along with his lawyers, that an appeal would free him shortly after he was sentenced. But rather than riding out appeals in the com-fort of his Ohio Mansion, Tyson has been confined to the youth centre along with 1,200 other inmates whose crimes include murder. And in jail he has lost one appeal after

#### ceed with the country's largely The communique was the undeveloped reforms. - 12: first reaction from the rebels to The first parliamentary electhe killing of Mr. Colosio, 44, tion since Ukraine secured inwho was shot in the head and dependence in 1991 was supabdomen Wednesday after a posed to break a constitutional Tijuana campaign rally. gjam, oust Communist factions within Mexico's ruling class were opposed to the reforms passed this week by the

hangers-on and spur reforms when it was called ahead of term last September. The first round of the poll Sunday has instead generated little interest among voters baffled by an electoral system which could return a crippled parliament, leave more than a

bundred seats unfilled and sow political chaos. Kravchuk, making his third major television appearance in a week Friday, said that parliament, if unable to function, "will turn over its powers on the economy, corruption and fighting organised crime to the

The election could also widen the divide between the country's nationalist west and the pro-Russian east and south, which have less than a firm commitment to Ukrainian statehood.

Voters in the eastern Donbass coalfield and in Crimea, dominated by ethnic Russians, will probably return Communists and candidates calling for closer economic integration with Moscow. They will also vote in separate plebiscites on restoring

economic ties with Russia,

boosting regional powers and establishing Russian as a state language alongside Ukrainian. Paramilitary nationalists in western Ukraine could win several seats, filling a vacuum created by voter frustration and the lacklustre performance of 28 splintered political par-

Economists say the vote is also unlikely to return a bloc of sharp-witted reformers capable of directing the market changes which lag far behind those in relatively prosperous Russia. The campaign has been dull, with few posters in the streets,

only a handful of rallies and no

more than a few candidates

known to the vast majority of voters. "Given the conditions of social and economic discontent, many voters will probably reject all the candidates before them," said Alexander-Vishnyak, head of Ukraine's Sociological Service.

Voters in the first round face

balle papers with up to 31

names. Opinion polls show only about 20 of 450 districts

will elect a deputy in the first round by giving the leading candidate the required 50 per cent of votes cast. A rule invalidating the vote in any constituency with a turnout of less than 50 per cent could leave many seats unfilled

even after the second round.

# Remaining troops rescued

KOTA KINABALU. Malaysia (R) — A helicopter winched three soldiers to safety from a deep gully on South East Asia's highest mountain Saturday, completing a dramatic rescue of five soldiers lost

Two others - Lieutenant-

of Malaysia's north Borneo Foster told reporters on his

Asked what was the worst "Just the wait, I think. We

"We spotted an S.O.S. sign made of stones on the bank of the Panataran River and on closer inspection we saw the

Kinabalu on Feb. 22.
The team split into two groups after reaching Mount Kinabalu's peak to begin a dangerous descent into Low's Gully, which plunges from the peak to waterfalls and rapids.

terpart Mahathir Mohammad for the efforts of Malaysian troops.

way out of the dense jungle. Diplomats and officials said Britain hoped the joint rescue effort could help warm ties between the two countries after Kuala Lumpur retaliated against British firms over corruption allegations in the BritNixon warns against writing off Yeltsin

Shokhin. The former U.S. president,

"sea change in Russia's foreign policy" as the most disturbing development since the December elections in Russia. Observing that Foreign

ultra-nationalists made a On the issue of NATO's

publics, all except the three Baltic states are in the CIS but pendence of Ukraine, warning many of Mr. Yeltsin's domestic that "a Russian-Ukrainian opponents want to return to a confrontation would make single state under Russian

# Dominique returns to Atlanta to beat Hawks

ATLANTA (R) — Revenge was sweet for Dominique Wilkins Friday .

Wilkins, star forward for the Hawks for his entire career before being dealt to the lowly Clippers last month, returned to Atlanta for the first time and poured in 36 points to lead Los Angeles to a 97-94 victory over his former club.

Known as "the human highlight film" for his dazzling moves, Wilkins scored 10 of his 36 in the fourth quarter, including the basket that gave the Clippers the lead for good at 93-92.

Wilkins, upset at being traded from serious contenders for whom he had starred for years to the struggling Clip-pers, also had 10 rebounds despite playing with the flu.
The loss dropped Atlanta into second place in the Eastem Conference playoff race, one game behind New York.

At Indiana, Patrick Ewing had 25 points and 15 rebounds to lead the streaking New York Knicks to their 12th win in a row as they edged the Pacers

The Knicks, who claimed sole possession of first place in the Eastern Conference, are in the midst of their second longest winning streak in club history, surpassed only by an 18-game streak during their 1969-70 championship season. A three-pointer by Reggie Miller pulled Indiana to within

one at 83-82 with 16 seconds The Knicks held on as Anthony Mason sank two foul shots and Byron Scott missed a three-pointer for Indiana in the

closing seconds. At New Jersey, the Nets ended a 12-game losing streak against Chicago by crushing the Bulls 110-87.

**± K94** ♥ A.J96 ◊ 72

SOUTH

The bidding:
North East
1 4 Pass
2 4 Pass
4 4 Pass

**4** A Q 10 6 5 2 ∇ 7 5 3

1 ± 3 ± Pass

Opening lead: Queen of  $\diamondsuit$ The key to most hands is count-

ing. When you find that, given time, declarer has enough tricks to make

South West

Johny Newman had 22 points and the Nets outscored-Chicago from the foul line 34-12 as New Jersey posted its first victory over the NBA champions in more than three

In Philadelphia, John Williams scored 16 of his 18 points in the first half as the Cleveland Cavaliers rolled over the slumping 76ers 105-88.

Cleveland opened a 19-point halftime lead and widened it to 75-44 with 5:05 left in the third quarter. The Sixers got no closer than 13 points in losing their ninth straight home game. The Cavs have defeated the

76ers 13 consecutive times. At Detroit, Larry Johnson, Frank Brickowski and Muggsy Bogues scored 18 points apiece to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a 106-92 victory over the Pistons.

The Hornets led by 15 points at halftime and opened a 24point advantage late in the third quarter.

Isiah Thomas scored 19 points and Lindsey Hunter added 15 for the Pistons, who are 0-3 against Charlotte this

At Utah, Karl Malone scored 27 points and John Stockton added 24 points and 14 assists as the Jazz snapped a five-game losing streak with a 103-96 victory over the Milwankee Bucks.

In Phoenix, Dan Majerle and Kevin Johnson scored six points each in a late 13-2 run as the Suns escaped with a 99-94 victory over the Dallas Maver-

In Portland, Clyde Drexler scored 23 points and Harvey Grant scored six during an early 17-4 run that lifted the Trail Blazers to a 100-91 victory over the Sacramento

game was automatic.

West led the queen of diamonds
and East rose with the acc—after
all, kings have been known to be

singleton. When the monarch did not appear, it was time to review the situation.

amond tricks due the defenders and.

st most, one club trick. If West held

the ace of clubs, then declarer, in

the ace of clubs, then declarer, in addition to the king of diamonds, certainly had to have the ace-queen of spades or queen-jack of spades and queen of hearts to make a game try. What's the best chance for the defense to emerge triumphant?

When a defender needs to find

When a detender needs to find tricks, it is usually right to play part-ner for the weakest holding that will produce those tricks. That combina-tion was the queen of hearts and ace

of clubs. Since declarer would be

the ace was forced out, it was vital to

# Jordan soccer championship | Sato wins women's World brings lots of surprises

weeks, especially their 1-0 de-

feat to Al Hussein — their first

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - With only four weeks left in the first division soccer championship, the 18th week of the tournament provided fans with a series of surprising results that might well determine the fate of the 12 team competition.

Although the top three positions remained unchanged, the last four teams are now undoubtedly in an unenviable position. With four matches each against top teams, Al Jazireh and Fuheis will have to score some wins and hope that Al Arabi and Al Baqua lose so that they can maintain their spots among first division teams. Meanwhile, Sahab and Al Yarmouk in 11th and 12th place are very close to relegation and will have some tough opponents in Al Ahli and Al

Hussein in upcoming matches. During the past week, Al Baqaa delighed their fans by scoring an unexpected 2-0 win over Al Hussein. Al Bagaa's players were reportedly awarded JD 1000 by the club and promised of similar bonuses if they scored more

With the victory, Al Baqaa remained in 7th place, while Al Hussein are fourth. Titleholders Al Faisali again

failed to give their fans something to cheer about when they were held to a 1-1 draw with 9th placed Al Jazireh.

Although Al Faisali have almost clinched the title, their fans and coaching staff must surely be very upset after their

### News in Brief

#### Castillejo stops challenger in 3rd round

CORDOBA, Spain (R) -Javier Castillejo of Spain retained his European lightmiddleweight title Saturday after compatriot Valentino Manca retired at the end of the third round after taking two counts. This was Castillejo's won by defeating Frenchman Bernard Razzano in January.

#### Cambridge win boat race

LONDON (AFP) - Cambridge University won the boat race for the second successive year here Saturday when they crushed Oxford University in the 140th contest. Cambridge, fielding one of their strongest crews for years including two world championship gold medallists in Germans Peter Hoeltzenbein and Thorsten Streppelhoff, lived up to their tag as favourites with a dominant performance.

Sweifiyeh.

results during the past two

loss of the season. Al Ahli remained in 3rd place after crushing last placed Al Yarmouk 5-0. The win was an important one for Al Ahli who last week surprisingly lost 2-1 to Al Jazireh and were held to a goalless draw with Al

Al Yarmouk seemed helpless as Al Ahli carried out an all out attack from the outset of the match held at Al Mafraq

Strikers Amer Wali, Imad Fataftah and Nart Yadaj scored for Al Ahli in the 18th, 31st and 42nd minutes ending the first half with a comman-

ding 3-0 lead. Khalil Fataflah took advantage of a fragmented defence and netted in the fourth goal in the 65th minute. Wali was assisted by Husam

Hammash in scoring his second and Al Ahli's fifth goal in the 88th minute while Al Yarmouk lost two scoring chances.

In another match, Al Fuheis overcame Sahab 2-1 but remained in 10th place while Sahab's overall points were frozen at 17 and thus stayed in 11th place.

Sahab seemed to have the upper hand throughout the first half and closely guarded Fuheis strikers Wa'ed Suweis and Khader Mubarak. Suweis' efforts paid off as he

scored his first goal from a header in the 70th minute and then stunned Sahab when he added another goal in the 81st Two minutes later, Sahab's

ace Mohammad Al Ashhab was tackled and Mohammad Huneiti scored from a penalty shot ending the match with an important win for Al Fuheis. Al Ramtha dropped from 4th to 6th place after their 3-1

fall to former champions Al Wihdat. As both teams went on an early offensive trying to score in the first half, Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib was tackled in the box warranting a penalty shot which was dis-

Windat

AMi

Jazirek

Sabab

puted by Al Wihdat's officials. and bench before it was successfully executed by Khaled Al Aggouri in the 31st minute.

As Al Wihdat repeatedly tried to score the equaliser, they were infuriated when the referee awarded Al Ramtha another penalty shot.

However, goalie Naser Al Ghandour averted another goal when he successfully blocked Abu Hdeib's second

Al Wihdat began their scoring spree late in the second half and managed to score three goals within seven minutes to maintain second place for now. The most goals were scored the Qadissieh-Arabi match

which ended 3-3 enabling Al Qadissieh to maintain their unbeaten record during the second leg of the competition. They thus moved from 6th to 5th place, while Al Arabi remained in 8th place.

Al Arabi played one of their best matches early in the first half when repeated attacks finally paid off as Raed Aziz opened scoring in the fifth minute. However, Al Qadissieh's Ra'ed Al Momani equalised six minutes later.

Al Arabi's striker Ayman Al Omari and Mohammad Alawneh scored two minutes apart to give their team a 3-1 lead before Al Qadissieh's Mustafa Adam scored his team's second goal from a penalty in the 40thminute ending the first half 3-2 for Al Arabi.

Al Qadissieh took control of the second half and managed to equalise by Tha'er Ibrahim in the 75th minute.

Al Arabi's brilliant striker Al Omari lost the chance to give his team the win when a definite chance was blocked by Al Qadissieh's veteran goalie Khaled Abdul Fatah.

In the upcoming 19th week of the competition, Al Fuheis take on Al Wihdat, Al Qadissich meet Al Jazireh, Al Ahli face Sahab, Al Ramtha meet Al Arabi, Al Faisali play Al Baqaa, Al Yarmouk take on Al Hussein, and Al Jazireh meet Al Hussein in a postponed match. .

She touched her hand to the ice after a triple loop late in her routine, however, that cost her points.

# Figure Skating Championship

almost flawless precision. Japan's Yuka Sato won the women's World Figure Skating

Championship Saturday. It was the first major international victory for Sato, who used her trademark footwork and hit all of her jumps to skate by Surya Bonaly of France, who took the silver

Finishing third was Germany's Tanja Szewczenko. Sato is the first Japanese to win a world figure skating championship since Midori Ito won in 1989, and her performance was welcomed by the

For Bonaly, who cried and took off her medal as she stood on the winners' stand, it was a

Japanese crowd with a rain of

bouquets and thunderous ap-

bitter loss. Sato's victory Saturday was by a close margin. Her scores ranged from 5.7 to 5.9, while Bonaly's were from 5.5 to 5.9.

Five of the nine judges scored Sato as first, compared with four for Bonaly. One judge, however, had Bonaly at third after Szewczenko.

Bonaly, who was also runner-up in last year's world championships, finished a very close second in the shorter technical programme to Sato Friday. Each won four firstplace votes.

Both landed clean triple lutz-double toe loop combinations in the technicals, prompting Bonaly's coach, Alain Giletti, to suggest Bonaly might try a quadruple - four in-air revolutions - to get the edge in Saturday's free prog-

No woman has ever landed a quad successfully in competition. On Saturday, Bonaly did not try, though she did hit a triple flip-triple toe combina-

Yuka Sato of Japan (AFP photo)

This year's women's championship was contested without any of the medal winners from the Olympics.

Lillehammer gold medallist Oksana Baiul of Ukraine did not compete because she injured her leg in practice at the Olympics, and silver medallist Nancy Kerrigan of the United States stayed home resting.

The only Lillehammer medallist who made it to Japan, bronze winner Chen Lu of China, pulled out Thursday after announcing she had

aggravated a stress fracture in her right foot.

All the no-shows made the women's event ripe for skaters like Sato and Bonaly, who had yet to win a world championship title or an Olympic

Bonaly, who defeated 1993 world champion Baiul for her fourth European championship just two months ago, finished a disappointing fourth at Lillehammer after making several mistakes in her free programme.

## U.S. take Davis Cup lead over India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The United States, beaten in the first round of the Davis Cup in 1993, overcame their first hurdle of this year's competition when Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg won a tight doubles against India's Leander Paes and Gaurav Natekar. Their 7-6 6-4 2-6 7-6 victory gave the Americans a winning 3-0 lead in the world group first round tie Saturday. But it could have been a different storey had the young Indian pair not crumpled at crucial moments in the opening two

Spurred on by a noisy crowd, Paes and Natekar came good in the third set as the debutant Natekar scarcely put a foot wrong. The fourth set had the Delhi

stadium rocking as game after game went to deuce. Paes, the more spectacular but erratic of the Indian pair, looked set to crack in the ninth game as the Americans held successive break points.

Natekar pulled him out of trouble with two scintillating volleys and the game went to a tie-break. In the end it was Natekar who made the vital

error, failing to get to a slashing backhand cross-court service return from Reneberg . to give the Americans the only. break they needed.

In Colombo, Sir Lanka took an unassailable 3-0 lead by ... winning the doubles against Saudi Arabia on the second. day of their Davis Cup relegation tie in the Asia-Oceania. Zone group 11 Saturday. Sri Lanka's Jayantha Wi-

jeyesekera and Rohan de Silva combined well to overcome the . Saudi pair to Zulfikar Ahmad. and Tawfiq Ibrahim, 7-5, 6-3, .:

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letter with a CV and a recent photo, before April 10th 1994, to: Bouygues P.O. Box 1669 - Agaba-Jordan Fax No 007 (3) 317116

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An American consulting firm, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture/National Center for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer will be conducting an Impact Assessment and Final Evaluation of the National Agricultural Development Project and is seeking expressions of interest from individuals (preferably Ph.D in agriculture or related discipline) who are senior professionals with extensive experience in the following area/s of technical expertise:

Institution-Building and Management

Applicants must be familiar with and experienced in Jordan's Agriculture and the Agencies and Institutions serving agriculture.

Applied Research and Technology Transfer

Applicants must have knowledge about Jordan's agriculture research history and have experience in implementing and evaluating agricultural research and extension

Agricultural Economics

Applicants must be experienced in economic aspects of agricultural development projects within Jordan and/or the region. Experience with Institutional building is also

Services will be required on a part-time basis for a period ranging between 30-60 days starting around mid-April, 1994. Interested individuals should have excellent writing skills in English and Arabic and

should have experience in working with an international team of professionals. Interested parties are requested to submit their current CVs in English to the following address:

Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO) National Center for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer, P.O.Box 283, Baqa' - Jordan.

CVs must be delivered by 14:00 hours on Wednesday, 6th April, 1994.

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	O A D T A	INDECENT PROPOSAL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Holly Floria & Alicia Anne in BIKINI ISLAND Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' DEMOLITION MAN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 16:30 CONCORD '2' ACCIDENTAL HERO Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden × Forbidden	Watch for the surprise —	Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed It will re-open on April 6, 1994 for two weeks in the last performances of: "Arab Summit Conference"

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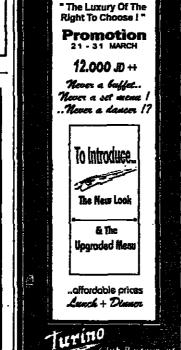
REQUIRED AN AGGRESSIVE, PRESENTABLE PERSON, FLUENT IN ENGLISH, READING AND WRITING, TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING A NEW BUSINESS. Degree in not important.

Successful Candidate can secure a great future.

Being able to use the COMPUTER will be a great advantage. having OWN TRANSPORTATION will be an

other advantage. AGE: preferably between 25 - 35. SALARY will be determined according to qualifications and will be agreed upon .

Call 699741 or 699742 for appointment.



Check Details 816690

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### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Arabs appeal for Yemeni reconciliation

CAIRO (R) — Arab foreign ministers, in an unusual intervention in an internal conflict in a member state, called on Yemeni leaders on Saturday to settle their differences and hold the country together. Yemeni northern and southern politicians, led by President Ali Abduliah Saleh in the north and Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh, have been at odds since last year over the course of the unification process which began in 1990. The Arab League council of ministers, meeting in Cairo for a regular six-monthly session, said in a statement: The council affirms its extreme concern and amiety at the developments urges way in the Yemeni arena and under Yemeni political leaders to double their efforts to solve the disputes in a way which would reinforce unity. The council considers unity in Yemen a national gain and a pan-Arab achievement which should be preserved and supported." The Arab League usually refrains from commenting on the internal affairs of member states.

#### U.N. inspector: Iraq trip successful

BAGHDAD (R) - A U.N. chemical inspection team left Baghdad on Saturday saying it had successfully completed its monitoring mission at a site where prohibited deadly gases had been destroyed. "The purpose was to obtain environmental samples, air samples. We've completed our work, the mission team leader Gerald Brubaker said before leaving Baghdad. "We took samples at different locations around the Muthanna site. It was a part of long-term monitoring under (U.N.) Resolution 715," he told reporters.

#### Militants not a threat to Mubarak — Rabin

TEL AVIV (R) - Muslim militants are unlikely to overthrow Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and turn the country into an Iranian-style Islamic republic, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday. "I believe in the stability of President Mubarak's regime, which benefits from the support of the large majority of the Egyptian people faced with Islamic extremists," Mr. Rabin told Israeli radio. "I do not think Egypt is in danger of becoming another Iran with a Muslim extremist regime," Mr. Rabain said, adding that he was "sure" Egypt would continue to play an active role in the Arab-Israeli peace process. Mr. Rabin said he spoke to Mr. Mubarak by telephone Friday, the 15th anniversary of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty (see page 2). "I thanked President Mubarak for these 15 years of peace and he said the treaty was a perfect example of the way peace can be built. He also said be hoped other Arab countries would successfully follow the same path," Mr. Rabin said.

#### iraq will only give Kurds autonomy

NICOSIA (AFP) - The government of President Saddam Hussein has ruled out extending self-rule to Iraqi Kurds beyond the autonomy they have already been granted, Iraqi Parliamentary Speaker Mahdi Saleh said Friday. Kurds were given autonomy in three northern provinces in 1970, he said in an interview on the Arabic service of Radio Monte-Carlo. Iraqi Kurds enjoyed the right to autonomy earlier than Kurds living in Turkey, Syria and Iran, he added. He also denied reports of confrontations in the Iraqi south, said to be organised by Shi'ite rebels. "The situation in the south is like in Baghdad, security is total," he said.

#### India likely to try 14 for Kashmir massacre

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The main government is likely to court martial 14 officers and soldiers for killing at least 31 unarmed Muslims last October in the northern state of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Saturday. The federal home ministry was contemplating the action against our officers and 10 lower-rank troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) for the Oct. 22 massacre in Kashmir's Bijebehara town, PTI quoted BSF officials as saying. More than 100 people were shot by soldiers of the paramilitary force, which opened fire on a crowd of 3,000 protesters on a street. The official death toll was 31, but survivors say 42 died and many were maimed and wounded.

#### Egyptians in Denmark suspects in U.S. case

COPENHAGEN (R) - Two Egyptians are being held in Denmark on suspicion of having links with the conspiracy behind the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing in New York and a related bomb plot case, a Danish newspaper reported on Saturday. Provincial daily Aarhus Stiftstidende said the two asylum seckers had been in custody for four months in Aarhus, the main town on the Jutland peninsula, while Danish security police and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation secretly investigated their possible involvement in the plots. Danish security police were unavailable for comment on the report. The two men, who were not named but were said to be 30 and 36 years old respectively, were under suspicion mainly because a fingerprint from one of them matched a print found during U.S. police investigations of suspected Arab guerrillas in New York.

#### Bhutto exonerated in power abuse case

LAHORE (AFP) - Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto was cleared Saturday by a special court in a fourth case involving charges of abuse of power during her previous term in office. The one-judge court headed by Justice Munir Sheikh of the Lahore high court ruled the charge that Ms. Bhutto misused three air force planes for political purposes in 1989 had no substance, court sources said. The cases were filed against Ms. Bhutto by the then-President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after sacking her government in August 1990.

#### OPEC freezes quotas until year-end

GENEVA (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided in Geneva on Saturday to freeze production quotas until the end of 1994 in a bid to revive depressed world oil prices. Some of the 12 members of the organisation had wanted to cut output but found Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, reluctant to cede market share. Iran, the Saudis' traditional Gulf rival and an oil price "hawk," called the decision "unfortunate." The agreement extending an output freeze beyond what markets had originally expected seems designed to the achieve a gradual recovery

#### Yemen parliament urges end to crisis

SANAA (R) - Yemen's parliamentary speaker on Saturday orged the country's rival leaders to settle their dispute. Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar told parliament the leaders had failed to implement a reconciliation accord signed in Jordan last month to end the crisis which has paralysed the government since July and pushed Yemen towards partition. "We and all our people... had thought that the signing of the accord would end all the signs of the crisis, but more than a month later nothing has been implemented," Sheikh Ahmar

#### German town protests synagogue attack

LUEBECK, Germany (R) - More than 4,000 people protested on Saturday in the northern port city of Luebeck against the first fire-bombing of a synagogue in Germany since the dark days of the third Reich. The city observed a five-minute silence just before noon to reflect on the Molotov cocktail attack by suspected neo-Nazis in the early hours of Friday that left Luebeck's synagogue charred and its tiny 27-strong Jewish community deep in shock. Cars pulled to a stop, bridges were closed off and many people stopped whatever they were doing in a gesture entitled "a city holds its breath."

# Jordan expects Paris Club talks in May

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan expects to hold debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club of creditor governments in early May after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issues a certification that the Kingdom has met with stipulations in the economic restructuring programmes it launched several years ago. a senior official said Saturday.

The official, a key figure in the Kingdom's efforts to address its \$6.6 billion foreign debt, dismissed as untrue a report that the government had received an IMF warning that it was deviating from the agreements it has undertaken in the economic restructuring programmes.

'I am not aware of any such communication from the IMF or anyone else," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

"We are waiting for the IMF executive directors to issue the certification so that we could open the negotiations with the Paris Club," the official told the Jordan Times.

"We don't anticipate any problem with securing the IMF certification," added the official, noting that an IMF delegation visited Amman in February for a review of the economic programme.

The mission's report would be submitted to the executive directors soon, and once it is approved, which is more or s routine, the certification will be issued," said another official. "We do not have any indica-

tions to the contrary," added the official, conceding, however, that the negotiations with the Paris Club were delayed because of the delay in implementation of some of the measures agreed with the IMF.

Foremost among those measures is the introduction of a sales tax to replace a consumption tax which has been in force since 1992.

Under a standby agreement signed with the IMF early this year Jordan undertook to introduce the levy in the first quarter of 1994. A draft law on sales tax was sent to Parliament in February, but the legislation was not debated on the floor before Parliament recessed after a regular session last week.

The legislature is expected to begin an extraordinary session next month to consider pending legislation, including the draft sales tax law. The .Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament has recommended that the draft law be endorsed after

Political activists and union leaders, supported by businesspaign against sales tax. The Islamic Action Front (IAF). Jordan's mainstream Islamic movement which rejects the IMF-prescribed economic programme altogether, boycotted the last session of Parliament to protest the

House's Financial Committee's

recommendation that the law

on sales tax be endorsed.

men, have launched a cam-

Officials and diplomatic sources said most of Jordan's creditors in the Paris Club have indicated that they would positively consider the Kingdom's bid to reschedule repayments due between mid-1993 and end of 1994.

The rescheduling talks were expected to be held in June 1993 but were extended until carly this year to allow Jordan to go ahead with introducing the sales tax so that the IMF could issue the certification to clear the way for the Kingdom's negotiations with the creditor governments.

According to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) figures, Jordan's total foreign loans stood at JD 4,803.9 million at the end of 1993. This figure included JD 381.4 million owed to Arab governments and funds, JD 2,821.5 million to industrial countries' governments and state-run agencies, JD 15.9 million to other governments, JD 154.4 million to foreign banks (after a rescheduling accord last year which cut down the amount involved), JD 28.5 million to foreign companies, JD 926.6 million to multilateral agencies, JD 174.1 million in bonds and JD 301.5 milion in leasing contracts.

The amount on the negotiating table with the Paris Club is expected to be nearly JD 750

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#### Slatkin to head U.S. orchestra

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Leonard Slatkin, conductor of the St. Louis Symphony. Orchestra, is to succeed Metislav Rostropovich at the head of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), the Washington Post reported Saturday. The Washington-based NSO would not comment on the report, but a press. conference has been arranged for Monday at its Kennedy Centre headquarters. The Washington Post said the appointment of Slatkin, 49, considered with Lorin Maazel as one of the two best conductors in the United States, had been in the wind for months. Slatkin's contract with the St. Louis Orchestra would normally expire in 1966, while Rostropovich, 67 Sunday, announced in 1992 that he would retire at the end of the current season. Slatkin would be the fifth conductor of the NSO, after Hans Kindler (1931-1949), Howard Mitchell (1949-1969), Antal Dorati (1970-1977) and Rostropovich. He is considered responsible for achieving international renown for the St. Louis Orchestra, which he has headed since 1979, and of gaining a television audience for classical music. Slatkin is also known for his interpretations of contemporary American music and his knowledge of the Russian repertoire that has become a speciality of the NSO in recent years under Rostropo-

#### **Dudley Moore's** lawyer reports no crime committed

LOS ANGELES (R) — British actor Dudley Moore's arrest this week stemmed from a "lover's quarrel" in which his long-time girlfriend falsely accused him of beating her, Moore's lawyer said late Friday. Attorney Allan Sigel said Moore "never laid a hand on the woman" and that the couple had reconciled and were back together. "She told police it was all a misunderstanding," he told Renters. The 58 old comic actor, star of such hit films as Arthur and 10, was arrested at his exclusive Venice Beach home Monday night after his girlfriend, Nicole Rothschild, accused him of striking her. He was released on \$50,000 bail. Mr. Sigel said a "disagreement" began when Ms. Rothschild, 30, who has had an on-again, off-again relationship with Moore for the past 12 years, arrived at his home drunk and uninvited. "They had a lover's quarrel," he said. When she refused to: leave, Moore called an emergency operator and asked for police to remove her from his home, Mr. Sigel said. "In a counter-move, she called the coperator herself and made up a story about him striking her, Mr. Sigel said. Police had no choice but to arrest Moore in: accordance with laws covering domestic violence. But whenofficers later found Ms. Rothschild at her own apartment, she told them it was all a mistake and that she had no reason to press charges, Mr. Siegel said. But investigators noticed a red mark on her neck - a scar from recent thyroid surgery - and mistakenly believed it was an injury suffered at Moore's hands, the lawyer said. Over her protests, police required her to go to a local hospital, but no treatment was needed, Mr. Sigel said. Mr. Sigel said he was confident that prosecutors will drop the case. The city attorney's office has been considering whether to charge Moore with a misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of six months in

## White House staffers take

White House personnel were required to take a drug test, a White House staffer said. In testimony before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, Patricia Thomasson, director of the White House Office of Administration, said that even the president's new counsel — the highly respected Lloyd Cutler - underwent the drug test. All newly hired staffers were tested for illegal drugs, which are also given randomly to all permanent White House workers, Ms. Thomasson said. One White House employee hired before Mr. Clinton came into office the international community tested positive.

# Islamists regain almost total control of agriculture engineers

By Mariam Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Islamists regained almost total control of Jordan's Agricultural Engineering Association after having shared power with more secular groups for the last four years, results of association elections showed Satur-

Seven of the committee's nine seats, including the seat for president and vicent, were won by Islamists, while two members of the leftist Green Bloc retained only two seats in Friday's elec-

The Greens had previously controlled the committee with a six to three majority over Islamists. But for Friday's elections leftists, liberal and pan-Arabists as well as independents formed two separate lists and thus split the non-Islamist

Tarek Al Tel and Hassan Jaber, two veteran union members, won the posts for president and vice-president respectively. The contenders for the seat of president from the Green Bloc and the Professionals Bloc had a greater number of combined votes than Mr. Tel. but neither could muster more votes than Mr. Tel on his own.

It was the first time that the

three-way face-off among its 2,300 members. Members say there has been an attempt to politicise the election instead of keeping it professionally

oriented. The three nine-member lists running for the executive committee were the White Bloc, the Green Boc and the Profeszional Bloc.

The White Bloc is almost exclusively made up of Islamic Action Front (IAF) members. The Green Bloc is made up of members of the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party, the Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan and the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party. The Professional Bloc was composed mostly of independent liberals.

"Politics has always been a big part of union politics, but now that we have a parliament and political parties we can afford to stick to the professional aspects of agriculture and get better terms of work for those working in agricul-ture in Jordan," Mohammad Abu Ayyash, the out-going vice-president of the association, told the Jordan Times.

Just over half of the association's members are registered voters, having paid association fees. Two thirds of the registered voters normally vote in association elections.

Association officials say that

community due to strains on the Jordanian economy after the Gulf war has made their lot worse over the last four years and that fears of the economic agreements related to the Arab-Israeli peace talks have put a further dent into the expectations for better times for agriculturalists.

"We need an association which will protect the agriculture sector and allow us to grow competitive goods at competitive prices and allow for a fair chance to get our goods on Arab and European markets," said a leftist candi-

But most association observers believe that the reason for the overwhelming Islamist victory resulted from the division between the more secular groupings in the union than the strength of the Islamists.

The Islamists controlled the union from 1984 to 1990. The Greens won an overwhelming victory in 1990. The new executive commit-

tee members of the association are: Tarek Al Tel (White --President); Hassan Jaber (White — Vice-president); Radi Tarawneh (Green Mazen Abul Qader (Green), Walid Arabiyat, Mohamad Hababneh, Abdul Hadi Fellahat, Hassan Ziadeh and

The winning block, known as the Professional List, was made up of two candidates

## Apolitical group controls Contractors Association

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - A non-politicised group gained control of Jor-dan's Contractors Association Friday when they won all but two of the seats on the association's nine-member executive committee edging out some of the capital's best known contractors.

were four groups in the run-

Like the elections of the

dered to be Jordan's richest and most prosperous professional association are considered pan-Arab and leftist politically but capitalist professionally. The winning group is viewed appolitical with a tendency to be regionalist and another was Islamist.

Unlike the more populist professional associations and unions in the Kingdom the Contractors Association has traditionally been a "businessman's club" where profit rather than politics did the talking, long-term observers of

#### from Karak, two from Irbid and five from Amman. Observers believe that playing on regionalism was how the group

beat more prominent candi-

dates who ran against them.

the list had 160 votes secured,"

said a former head of the asso-

Because many of the con-

But Islamists, who swept the

Engineering Association elec-tions earlier this month and the

tracting companies are based

"Karak alone has 160 votes. So

"This is a shock. But there

ning so there were bound to be unexpected results," said one dismayed former president of the association.

Agricultural Engineering Association which ran paralle to the Constructors Association elections Friday, Islamist and non-Islamist groups vied for seats on the committee. Two of the groups which sought control of what is consi-

the association say.

#### in Amman, they often only field people who are in the capital and the winning list was different in that it made an attempt to include candidates from the northern and southern cities to gain their votes.

Agricultural Association on Friday have steadily been gaining ground in the once exclusive Construction Association. Islamists backed the Omar Bdeir list but failed however to win a single seat on the council. Nabil. Shami, who, like Omar Bdeir, ran for president, was backed by the leftist/pan-

Both lists were able to win one set each on the council. The rest was won by the Professional List.

Arab Green list.

The people on the executive committee are: President Mohammad Murad, Vice-President Atef Mashredi and members Farid Haatar, Nahar Al Liddawi, Raouf Shadid, Salti Zoubi (Omar Bdeir list), Abdul Karim Nsour, Mohammad Tarawneh and Abdullah Khalifeh (Nabil Shami list).

#### Gaza prepares to One rocket exploded in the receive police force

By Wafa Amr

GAZA — On Gaza beach, workers toil all day to finish redecorating an old building which will become the headquarters of the vanguard Palestinian police force.

The building, with pill-boxes the shape of the Al Agsa Mosque dome, will open for business on Sunday, Palestinian police officers said. A few Gazans wandered past curiously and one went up to ask an officer what was going on. Few details have emerged of

the Palestinian police force, a key element in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace deal with Israel. Commanders stay out of the limelight and, when they talk at all, say that everything still depends on talks in Cairo and

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators say they have agreed on roughly 8,000 policemen in Gaza and Jericho, although the PLO wants more. The PLO also says it is still short of the \$47 million start-up costs and \$90 million annual budget it needs to run a force this size. But whatever the uncertain-

ties, the signs are they are coming soon. In the last few days, the Israeli army has shown signs of rolling back 27 years of occupation, pulling out of built-up areas in Gaza, pulling down observation towers and shifting offices to the border with Israel. "If the talks go well, the

police force will start gradually entering Gaza and Jericho on April 7," said a PLO official. He declined to say how many would arrive then. A senior U.S. official said on

Friday a "vanguard" of the within a week.

police could start operating in the Gaza Strip and Jericho The building on Gaza beach is the only tangible sign of preparation by the Palestinian

police, which will include many

former PLO guerrillas. But

officials stress everything is under control

"There is a detailed deployment plan ready to be implemented. The police force is prepared to take over in every location evacuated by the Israelis," said Farouq Amin, head of the PLO's security apparatus'in the West Bank. "We're on the verge of tak-

ing over," he added. A delegation of senior officers arrived in Gaza from Cairo five months ago and there are rumours that the first batch of recruits from Gaza, who have been training in Egypt, will return to the strip on Sunday.

Palestinians living under Israeli occupation for 27 years loathe and despise police centres, army patrols, checkpoints and most others signs of authority. Now officers are hoping they will learn to live with a friendly force. "They hate the Israelis but

we will be different with them. They are our people. We will not repress them," said one officer.

At least in the beginning, officers say they will use many of the same locations as the Israelis. Palestinian police will take over sites in Gaza City's Rimal and Shajai'a districts and the Ansar II prison will become a police training cen-

Officers said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat wanted the 300 or so officers who served under Israeli command and resigned in 1988, during the Palestinian aprising, to join the Palestinian police and add much-needed experience to the raw force. A delegations of ex-officers

from the occupied territories is due to visit Tunis to meet him next week. The United States will pro-

vide 200 trucks and other vehides for the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho, Michael McCurry, the State Department spokesman, said. The Palestinian police force would be partially financed by

drug tests washington (AFP) — Ali

#### Mohammad Bibas (all of them 28-year-old association faced a the plight of the agriculture White). Renewed Kabul rocketing kills 20

KABUL (Agencies) — At least 20 people were killed and 150 wounded as scores of rockets pounded Kabul, including one that hit mourners Saturday as they prepared to bury a war

"It's the most rockets we have heard in weeks," said Dr. Nascer Sahak of the Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, which provided the casualty count.

The latest outburst of fighting between President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces and its rivals began Friday evening and lasted throughout the day Saturday.

Most of those killed were hit in two attacks, hospital workers and witnesses said. The first came Friday when a rocket slammed into a main market in the centre of town, killing six people as they were buying fruits and vegetables.

As mourners gathered Saturday at the home of one of the victims, a rocket crashed into the dwelling, killing nine. Also, the president's fighter jets bombed the Bala Hissar

Fort on the southeastern edge of the city, which is controlled by warlord Rashid Dostum. There was no immediate word on casualties.

General Dostum and renegade Prime Minsiter Gulbuddin Hekmatyar launched a major offensive Jan. 1 in a bid to oust the president. They have not been able to drive the president's forces out of strategic sites in the capital,

but they have maintained a relentless artillery barrage. More than 1,100 people have been killed, some 15,000 have been wounded and much of Kabul has been reduced to

"All of these leaders bring fighting to Kabul," said Hajira Zia, a relative of one of the victims at Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital. "Why do they kill civilians. We are all refugees." "I scraped up bits of human flesh into plastic bags. Why

can't somebody stop this sense-

trees of the compound of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), causing the early closure of the main delegation offices, local employees reported.

Reflecting the bitterness of many Kabul residents, one man asked why the United Nations could not intervene in Afghanistan as it has done in Somalia and Bosnia. Meanwhile, about 200

kilometres north of Kabul, pro-Rabbani forces were reportedly besieging an army base at Kelagai, where the rival forces of Gen. Dostum are dug in with the Ismaelia religious sect troops of Sayyad Jaffar Naderi.

Kelagai, a former Red Army munitions depot during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, guards access to Mr. Naderi's Pul-e-Khumri headquarters, which in turn sits on a strategic crossroads of highways leading to northeast and northwest Afghanistan.

## less fighting," pleaded a man who survived the latest rocket Algeria media stage protest blackout

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian print and broadcast media outlets observed a blackout Saturday in protest at an attack last week by suspected Islamic fundamentalists on an Algiers daily, amid reports the raid had claimed its third life.

No Algerian newspapers were to be published Saturday or Sunday as a gesture of protest and solidarity with the victims of Monday's attack on L'Hedbo Libere, in which armed men burst into the newspaper's head office disguised as policemen. The Algerian APS agency

shut down its wires Saturday between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (1200 to 1500 GMT) and ran only a minimal service from then until midnight. And the state television service observed a blackout Saturday from midday, the usual starting time for its transmis-

sions, until 1:00 p.m., when it

introduced a news programme

with a black mourning ribbon

across the top left corner of the

screen bearing the inscription

"no to terrorism" in Arabic. APS added in a statement. that its staff "fully support the declaration by editors of the national press and join them to forcefully condemn terrorism. and barbarism."

"Terrorism" is an Algerian media codword for attacks carried out in the name of the fundamentalist insurgency which has wracked Algeria for the last two years. Meanwhile, Nadir

Mahmoudi, who was critically burt in Monday's attack, died of his wounds Thursday. L'Hebdo Libere said Saturday. Mahmoudi, who was not a journalist, was visiting his brother, newspaper director Abdul Rahman Mahmoudi. when the attack took place.

Seven men anned with pistols entered the office in central Algiers claiming to be policemen, forcing the five people on the premises to lie down flat in the newsroom and shooting each through the head before fleeing. Photographer Madjif Yacef and a company driver died instantly. The two others are still recovering from their Twelve journalists have been killed in Algeria by sus-

the last year. In a separate development, suspected fundamentalists torched a train station in the western town of Boukadir and two car parks overnight Friday, security services said here Saturday.

pected fundamentalists over

The station's waiting room was wrecked, while seven vehicles were destroyed in the other two fires, the same sources said.

Meanwhile in Rabat, the head of the Socialist Forces Front Party (FFS), called on the international community to intervene to help end the violence. In an interview with the

Ishtiraki newspaper, Hoceine Ait Ahmad accurate West of "silence"

progressive Al Ittihad Al